

Hafa Adai!

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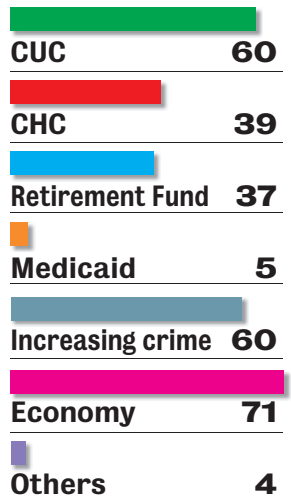
MONDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2012

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POLL RESULTS

Which local crisis do you think is the worst?



Sunday, February 12, 2012

INSIDE

LOCAL



The Pacific Islands Club's annual duck race raises nearly \$6,000.

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HEALTH & FITNESS



Researchers have encouraging news for pregnant women with cancer.

► PAGE 19

LIFE & STYLE



Whitney Houston, who ruled as pop music's queen, dies at 48.

► PAGE 20

DESPITE 22 PERCENT DROP IN POPULATION

Number of NMI housing units increased

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

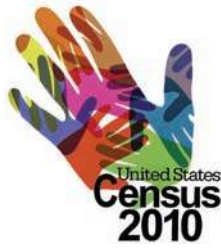
While the CNMI's population declined by 22 percent, the number of its housing units went up by almost 19 percent in a 10-year period, based on the latest data that the U.S. Census Bureau rolled out for the Commonwealth on Friday.

The CNMI's housing units numbered 20,850 in 2010 when the population was only 53,883. In the previous census in 2000, there were 17,566 housing units

for a population that numbered 69,221.

The islands' population count shrunk

See NUMBER on Page 4



Court frees regents from Fernandez's suit

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College board scored a win once more in the case filed against its regents by the college's former president, Dr. Carmen Fernandez, who was fired from her post two years ago.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman issued a ruling last Friday granting the regents' motions to

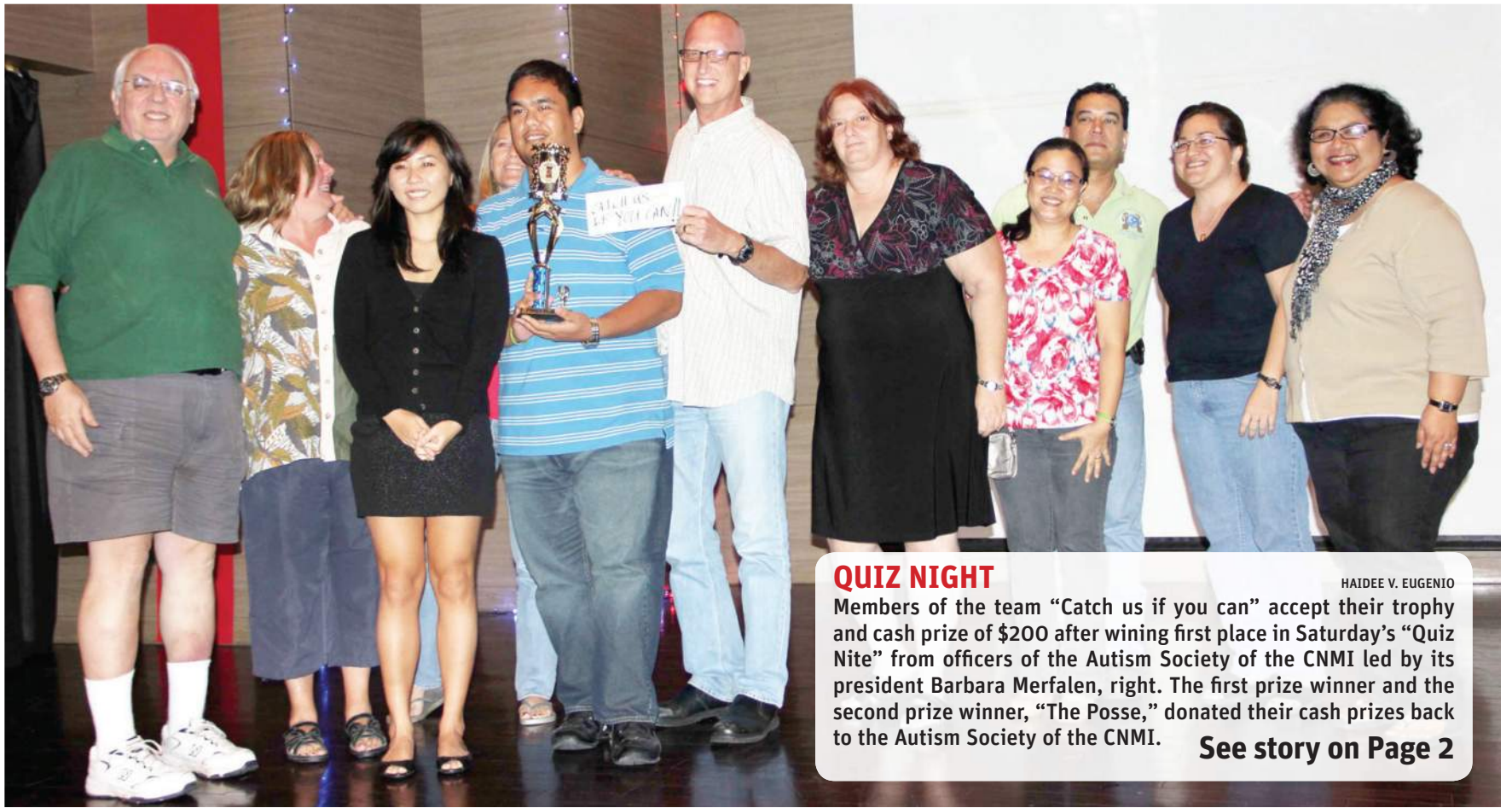


Fernandez

dismiss the case appealed by Fernandez last year.

The college's former chief executive officer was suspended in January 2010 following a board decision to investigate her for alleged unauthorized changing of students' grades. After a hearing on April 9, Fernandez was terminated three days later. She then sued the

See COURT on Page 4



QUIZ NIGHT

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Members of the team "Catch us if you can" accept their trophy and cash prize of \$200 after winning first place in Saturday's "Quiz Nite" from officers of the Autism Society of the CNMI led by its president Barbara Merfalen, right. The first prize winner and the second prize winner, "The Posse," donated their cash prizes back to the Autism Society of the CNMI.

See story on Page 2

Army Corps: Over 1,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil removed so far

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District has confirmed that over 1,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil have so far been removed from I-Denni/Edoni on Capital Hill. This ex-

ceeds the original estimate of only up to 600 cubic yards as part of the ongoing environmental cleanup up at the formerly used defense site.

» Kilili says nearly \$1M set aside for CNMI's cleanup of FUDS

Joseph Bonfiglio, chief of public affairs at Army Corps-Honolulu, said that "224 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated

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Mafnas: No to release of autopsy results

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety will not release the results of the autopsy conducted on bartender Emerita Relata Romero, according to Police Commissioner Ramon Mafnas, to protect the police's investigative process.

Romero was found dead at the former

La Fiesta Mall in San Roque last Feb. 7, two days after she was reported missing.

» Candlelight vigil tonight to remember Romero, take stand vs violence

In an email to the media over the weekend, Mafnas said that releasing the result of the autopsy "will simply forewarn, prepare, and arm the suspect or suspects with more information to destroy all evidence linking him or them to the victim."

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Frank Cushing, a great friend of the NMI, dies at 59. PAGE 3
Mysterious fire engulfs Rota restaurant. PAGE 4

Local



PIC's fourth annual duck race garners nearly \$6,000

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Pacific Islands Club's annual duck race on Saturday night saw the attendance of over a hundred spectators and raised nearly \$6,000 that will go toward the fight against cancer.

This year marked the fourth

ROSELYN B. MONROY

Pacific Islands Club employees gather all the toy ducks after their 4th annual duck race last Saturday.

time the contest was held. It aims to raise funds for the Marianas March Against Cancer, the biggest campaign on cancer awareness and prevention in the Commonwealth.

Glenn Policare, PIC's sports and activities manager, was elated with the turnout, saying it demonstrates the community's continued support for the activity.

Policare said they sold nearly 1,500 plastic ducks for \$5 each.

As early as 6pm, children and adults were seen gathering at the poolside, waiting for the contest to begin.

Three entries were named the winners of this year's competition. A total of \$1,500 in cash prizes was given away.

Named champion was the blue duck entry of Paul Bea, who bagged the grand prize of

\$1,000 cash prize. Bea is the hotel's power manager and a consistent participant in the race.

Named the second top racer was the red duck entry of Japanese tourist Akiko Yamazaki, a first timer in the contest. Yamazaki got the \$300 cash prize.

Three-year-old Andre Amour Zapanta's green duck also made it to finish line Saturday night, garnering the third place for \$200 cash.

The competition raised more than \$8,000 from over 1,800 duck entries last year. Although the amount raised this year went down a bit, Policare said he was still overwhelmed by the turnout and hopes that the race's tremendous success in the last four years will be continue in the years to come.

'Quiz Nite' raises awareness of and raises funds for autism in the CNMI

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

From naming the first person to coin the word "autism" to identifying the type of disability that Beethoven had or the country whose flag is flashed on the screen, people from a broad spectrum of the community put their history, culture, mathematics, and pop culture knowledge to test during "Quiz Nite" on Saturday.

"Quiz Nite," now on its second year, is the Autism Society of the CNMI's signature fundraiser, which also aims to increase awareness of autism.

"We're thankful for everyone who supported our fundraiser once again and the ones who supported us for the first time. We hope to continue doing this with the help of our community," Autism Society of the CNMI president Barbara Merfalen told *Saipan Tribune* during a break at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

Autism is a disorder of neural development characterized by impaired social interaction and communication, and by restricted and repetitive behavior. The word "autism" was first coined by Swiss psychiatrist Paul Eugen Bleuler in 1912.

Of the teams that participated, "Catch us if you can" bagged the first prize by correctly answering 27 of 40 questions.

The seven-member winning team consisted of Michael A. White, Nancy Gottfried, Carolyn Kern, Hedwig Hofschneider, Mina Yu, Matt Smith, and Christina Smith.

"The Posse" team came in second by having 23 of 40 questions answered correctly.

"Where is John Rogers?"

bagged the third prize for coming up with 22 correct answers out of 40 questions. Each of the four rounds had 10 questions.

Both "Catch us if you can" and "The Posse" teams donated their cash prizes of \$200 and \$100, respectively, to the Autism Society of the CNMI. All the three winners each got a trophy, but the third prize didn't have a cash prize.

Besides the competition, the crowd was also treated to dinner, a bit of dancing, and fun time with new and old friends, along with getting to know the officers of the Autism Society of the CNMI including its president Merfalen, vice president Romeo Cuellar, secretary Larisa Larson, and treasurer Julie Pagcaliwagan. Tom Thornburgh served as the quiz show host for the evening.

Pagcaliwagan said they raised at least \$2,606 that night, while Larson said the amount is expected to increase as other donations are expected to come in today.

Jolly Ann Cruz, a 20-year-old elementary education student at Northern Marianas College, said she volunteered to help organize "Quiz Nite" because she wants to raise awareness about autism.

"I think that not a lot of people talk about autism so I wanted to help raise awareness about it," Cruz said.

Besides Cruz, other NMC volunteer organizers included Amberlynn Mendiola and Dyenina Diaz, along with other student volunteers.

Over 80 individuals showed up at the \$20-per-person fundraiser. Organizers said there were others who bought tickets but were not able to attend.

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Frank Cushing, a great friend of the CNMI, dies at 59

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A U.S. congressional staffer who became instrumental in the development of the Northern Marianas during the initial stage of its covenant with the federal government passed away last Monday after battling brain cancer.

Frank Martin Cushing had over three decades of knowledge and experience in congressional appropriations and federal budget processes when he died at his home in Falls Church, Virginia. He was 59.

Cushing earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Idaho and completed graduate-level work in public policy administration at the University of Idaho and Boise State University before going to Washington D.C. in 1977 to work as

a legislative assistant for Sen. James McClure (R-Idaho).

He later served as clerk of the Senate Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee from 1981 to 1984, then as staff director for the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee from 1984 to 1991—both under McClure.

Cushing subsequently served as corporate vice president for an energy firm for three years before returning in 1995 to Capitol Hill where he worked as clerk and staff director of the House Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee for then chair Jerry Lewis (R-California) until 2003.

Pete A. Tenorio, former lieutenant governor and resident representative to the U.S., said he had known Cushing for 30 years and describes him as kind,

compassionate, a man with integrity and responsibility, and a great friend of the CNMI.

"He helped tremendously in getting the CNMI in the early days millions of dollars to prepare our infrastructure and our needs to be economically self-sufficient," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*. "He recognized many of our problems, and he committed his comprehensive resources as a budget person to make things happen for the CNMI."

According to Tenorio, Cushing was instrumental in getting appropriations for the construction of the island's lone public hospital, the Commonwealth Health Center—the first major funding from Congress that made a huge difference for the CNMI in its quest to make the

Covenant work for the new Commonwealth.

"I know I have lost a truly great friend...He helped the CNMI and expected nothing in return, and was just happy with your friendship," Tenorio said about Cushing, adding that he would let Cushing win a game of golf "so that I can enjoy seeing his joy and bragging rights."

James P. Beirne, a former congressional staffer who worked with Cushing, said that Cushing became the first congressional appropriations staffer to visit the Pacific "and he did it in grand style."

"Frank understood how important it was to have someone who could focus on the islands to the exclusion of everything else," Beirne said via e-mail.

Senate staffer Allen P. Stay-

man, for his part, said it has been a privilege to work with Cushing whom he described as a great mentor.

"Frank demonstrated his commitment to the islands through his willingness to take the time, among all the issues vying for his attention, to meet with island leaders and develop a full understanding of their concerns," he said.

Cushing, Stayman said, was "a sympathetic advocate for their communities during the formative years of political and economic development" and "played a crucial role in many funding and policy initiatives considered by Congress during those years."

"The benefits of his commit-

ment to the islands continues today," he added.

Cushing became the twelfth clerk and staff director of the House Appropriations committee under then chair Lewis before he retired in 2008 to become a partner at the lobbying firm Oldaker Law group where he dedicated his efforts toward policies in science and education.

He is survived by his wife Amy Hammer, mother Elizabeth Cushing, brother William P. Cushing, Jr., four children, and 12 grandchildren.

Cushing's life and memory will be celebrated in a memorial service on Feb. 13 at 3pm at Columbia Baptist Church where he served as a deacon.







Cushing

How do I know I'm pregnant?

Most women don't suspect they are pregnant until they miss a period, and a few don't suspect or believe they are pregnant for months after conception. During this time you are missing valuable prenatal care.

Here are 5 common early signs of pregnancy. You may experience all, some, or none of these symptoms.

-  **Missed Period:** Missing your period is the most noticeable sign of pregnancy. But it is not the only cause, as stress or other factors may cause irregular periods.
-  **Frequent Trips to the Bathroom:** Even before missing a period, most pregnant women report having to go to the bathroom more often.
-  **Fatigue:** Being tired is a very early sign of pregnancy.
-  **Morning (and Noon and Night!) Sickness:** That queasy feeling isn't limited to mornings. Most pregnant women who experience morning sickness feel slightly nauseated and may have vomiting at other times during the day as well.
-  **Sore (and Enlarged) Breasts:** If you're pregnant, your breasts may become tender to the touch, similar to the way they feel before your period, only more so.

If you have any of the above symptoms or suspect you are pregnant, come to the clinic for a pregnancy test as soon as possible! Don't wait!

PRENATAL CARE: Because You Care Healthy Mom & Healthy Baby

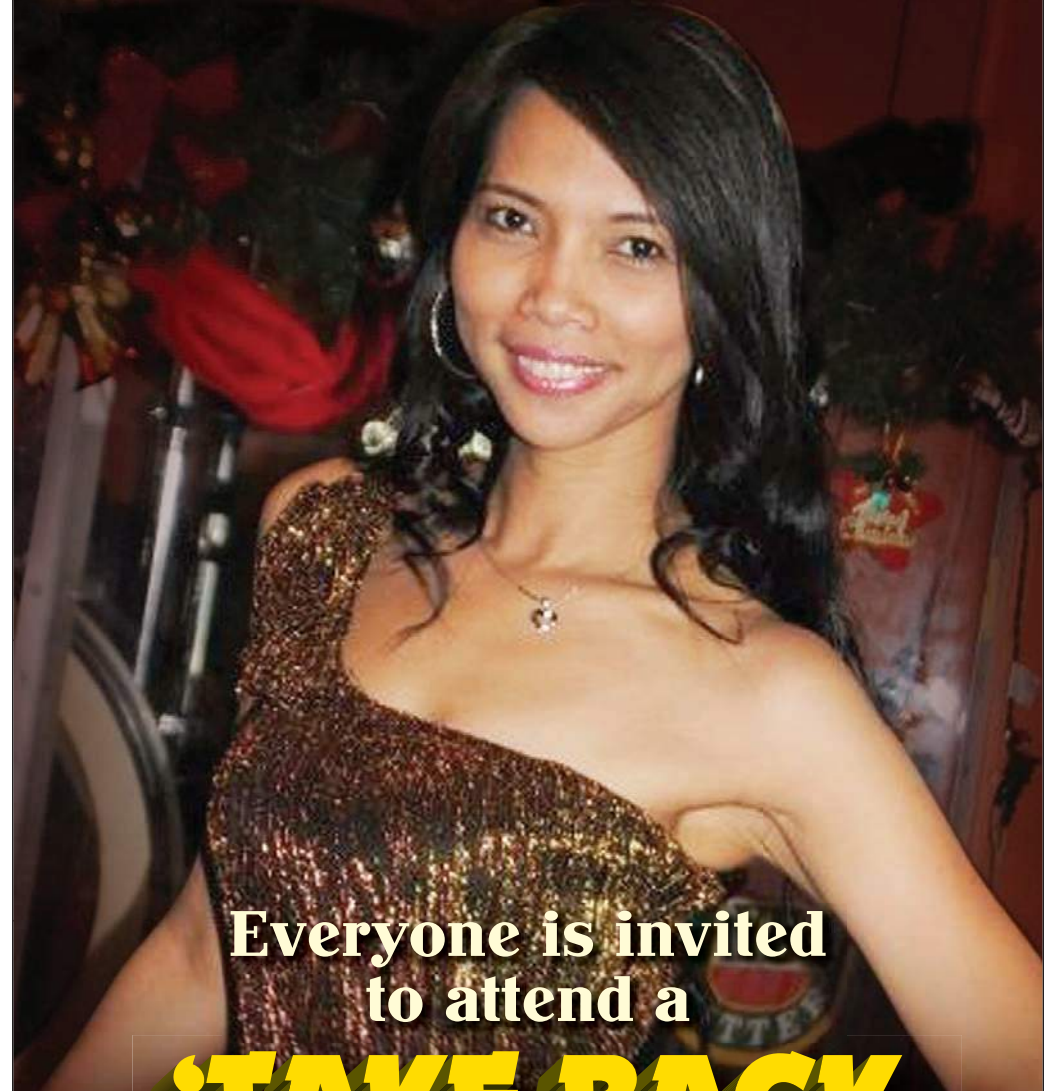


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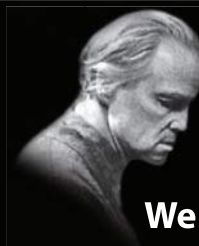
In Memory of Emie



Everyone is invited
to attend a

'TAKE BACK THE NIGHT'

candle light vigil and fundraiser
Monday night starting at 7:30pm in
front of Godfather's Bar



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Republicans name 17 of 24 candidates at fundraiser

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Republican Party named at yesterday's fundraiser 17 of the total 24 candidates they are fielding for the Nov. 6 midterm elections, including a delegate bet that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said they will announce at a later time.

The 17 include five House candidates for Precinct 1, two for Precinct 2, three for Precinct 3, two for Precinct 4, two for Precinct 5, as well as three Senate candidates for Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

"We will have a delegate candidate that will be announced at a later date because we want to choose the best. We have a short list, which means we have a better [candidate] than what we have now," Fitial told reporters, referring to incumbent Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), who has al-

ready announced plans to run for the post again.

Fitial, president of the CNMI Republican Party, called on Republicans to rally behind the candidates during yesterday afternoon's fundraiser at the Garapan Fishing Base.

The governor said they will also announce at a later time their Rota and Tinian candidates for the House, along with the remaining candidates for Precincts 1 and 3 on Saipan.

The five of six House Republican candidates for Precinct 1 include incumbents Speaker Eli Cabrera and Rep. Joseph Palacios, as well as former representative Ramon Dela Cruz, Division of Fish and Wildlife's Richard Seman and Jose Limes. A sixth candidate has yet to confirm a willingness to run.

On Precinct 2, the two confirmed Republican candidates are Danny Aquino

and Liana Hofschneider.

On Precinct 3, three of the six Republican candidates were confirmed yesterday. They include incumbent Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogomoro, as well as Roy Rios and Ralph Yumul. The latter was not present at the event yesterday. Ogomoro previously ran under the Covenant Party.

Fitial said there are more than three individuals vying for the last three remaining seats for Precinct 1, and he leaves it up to the precinct level to choose among these individuals. "They are all very good [potential] candidates," Fitial said.

For Precinct 4, the Republican candidates are incumbents: floor leader George Camacho and Rep. Sylvester Iguel. Camacho previously ran as an independent, while Iguel is a former Covenant member. Iguel was not at the

fundraiser yesterday.

Precinct 5 also has two Republican candidates who are also sitting lawmakers: Rep. Ray Basa and Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero. Basa is a former Covenant, while Deleon Guerrero is a former independent.

The three Republican candidates for the Senate are incumbent Sen. Luis Crisostimo for Saipan who is soon to return to the CNMI after months of treatment in the U.S.; incumbent Sen. Henry H. San Nicolas of Tinian, and Victor Hocog of Rota. Crisostimo used to be a Democrat and then as an inde-

Mysterious fire engulfs Rota restaurant

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A fire of mysterious cause razed to the ground a restaurant at the Teteto Beach on Rota yesterday morning.

A source from Rota disclosed that the fire broke out at 7:10am at the Zarpapa Hut, located in a one-story semi-concrete building. A Rota Department of Public Safety personnel confirmed the information.

"It's a total loss," said the source who asked not to be identified. No one was reported injured.

As DPS Rota has no fire truck, the airport's fire truck responded to the scene.

Less than two weeks ago, the source said, suspects attempted to burn the restaurant but the butane gas failed to ignite.

Since the alleged arson attempt, the owners assigned a security guard to the restaurant.

Yesterday's fire happened about an hour after the security personnel got off.

The restaurant's owners are Pedro Dela Cruz, Danny Atalig, Eric Barcinas, and Kelvin Hocog, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

MAFNAS

From Page 1

Guam chief medical examiner Aurelio A. Espinola did the autopsy last Tuesday night at the Commonwealth Health Center's morgue to determine the cause of death.

As this developed, Estrellita "Lhet" Relata told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they don't have a definite schedule yet as to when they will bring home the remains of their sister, Romero, to the Philippines.

Estrellita Relata and her brother, Eduardo Relata, are still waiting for the go-signal from authorities as to when they can finally bring home the remains for burial in Bulacan, the Philippines. The Relatas were planning to bring the remains to the Philippines early this week.

Romero's family members are urg-

ing authorities to arrest the killer before the victim's body is flown to the Philippines.

Mafnas said that DPS will not comment on ongoing investigations.

"The steps we are taking are necessary to protect the strength and integrity of the investigation process," he said.

Mafnas said that revealing more information at this time is not prudent and will only erode the grounds and tactical advantages held by investigators, and as a consequence, shift the advantage over to the suspects.

"Our men and women are out on the streets interviewing, searching and gathering evidence on both cases day in and day out," he said.

The commissioner said the need to protect the advantages and opportunities held by investigators to discover, identify, and preserve evidence as well as maintain tactical investigative

advantages far outweigh the cry for details, information, and news, being demanded by the public.

Many people are expected to join tonight's candlelight vigil, called "Take Back the Night," to remember Romero and take a stand against violence on Saipan. The vigil is also a fundraiser for Romero's two children.

The vigil, organized by Romero's co-workers at Godfather's Bar, will be held at the tourist district in Garapan at 8pm to 9:30pm. The converging area will be near Godfather's Bar at 8pm. The Relatas and their relatives will be joining the vigil.

Romero was last seen alive on Feb. 5 at about 3am boarding a green or blue tinted car in the parking lot of Call-A-Ride Saipan in Garapan. FBI agents found her body at the abandoned La Fiesta Mall in San Roque on Feb. 7 in the afternoon.

ARMY

From Page 1

soil and over 800 cubic yards of lead-contaminated soil" have been extracted to date. PCB stands for polychlorinated biphenyls, a cancer-causing chemical.

"Our No. 1 priority is the safety of the public and our workers," Bonfiglio said in an email response to *Saipan Tribune* questions.

He said in order to ensure the public's safety, the Army Corps is "proactively working with local officials to ensure that the PCB-contaminated soil from this location on Saipan is safely transported off island to an EPA [Environmental Protection Agency]-approved site on the mainland."

Bonfiglio also said the Army Corps has budgeted \$603,543.73 for this cleanup.

Because the cleanup is still ongoing and the volume of contaminated soil removed has exceeded original estimate, the actual cost is also expected to go up.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) separately said that the Army Corps has allocated \$936,000 for CNMI cleanups in fiscal year 2012, including the one in I-Denni, which was contaminated by military activity during and after World War II.

"I worked to obtain this robust funding for the Defense Environmental Restoration Program, which evaluates and cleans the FUD sites. As the [fiscal year 2013] appropriations process begins, I will continue to seek funding to rid our islands of this contamination once and for all," Sablan said.

On May 13, 2011, Sablan asked the U.S. House Appropriations Com-

mittee to provide funding to clean up the CNMI of environmental contamination. At the time, Sablan said there are 11 outstanding cleanup sites in the CNMI that require environmental remediation.

"The fiscal year 2010 estimated cost to complete remediation in the CNMI alone is estimated at \$347.8 million," Sablan told the U.S. House Appropriations Committee. Of that amount, nearly \$1 million was appropriated to the CNMI in the current fiscal year.

Besides I-Denni, there are nine other formerly used defense sites, or FUDS, on Saipan that require remediation, Sablan said. These include the Hospital Dump Site, American Memorial Park, Naftan Bomb Storage, Ordnance Plan, Naftan Ordnance Disposal, North Field, Marpi Point Field, Tanapag Fuel Farm, and Koblerville Naval Supply Center.

Meanwhile, it's still unknown how much in total contaminated soil will be removed from I-Denni as remediation is still ongoing.

"Even though we go into a project with work plans, when we're actually on the ground doing the work, we have to adjust our efforts to address actual conditions on the ground and clean up the contamination wherever we find it on site. Since everything is being done to the highest standards of safety, this takes some time. We will have final numbers which we can share once the work is completed," Army Corps' Bonfiglio said.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday that given the larger extent of the contamination compared to what was originally estimated, the Army Corps should "make sure that groundwater is not contaminated and

won't harm people using water from nearby wells and pumps."

"They have to dig deeper and measure the extent of the soil contamination and water contamination including the Agak pump," he said.

Off to Nevada

Bonfiglio said the Army Corps will ship the PCB-contaminated soil to an EPA-permitted facility called US Ecology, in Beatty, Nevada for proper disposal.

"The Corps has already started shipping PCB-contaminated soil out of Saipan and this action is ongoing," he added.

A large number of jumbo white sacks containing PCB-tainted soil were seen near the extraction site—a pit that the U.S. military used as a waste repository in the 1940s.

The Army Corps expects the I-Denni cleanup to cost much less than the \$20 million it spent cleaning up Tanapag of PCB contamination. The PCB cleanup was completed in 2003 involving 40,000 tons of PCB-tainted soil.

"This is a different kind of project so the funding is different. We expect that this will be less than Tanapag since we are actually shipping the PCB contaminated soil off island to an EPA-permitted facility," Bonfiglio said.

Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta said once the I-Denni area is completely cleaned up, the area will be turned into a homestead subdivision.

The 1.4-acre site lies approximately in the center of a 7.43-acre undeveloped parcel owned by the Department of Public Lands. This parcel is surrounded by residential dwellings, a boat repair facility, and dense jungle vegetation.

NUMBER

From Page 1

during the 10-year period mainly because of the decline in the number of foreign workers as a result of a slower economy that forced businesses to shut down or cut operations.

The Census Bureau's latest figures also break down the data by municipality and village.

Of the 20,850 housing units, 18,683 are on Saipan, 1,118 are on Tinian and 1,049 are on Rota.

Garapan has the largest number of housing units on Saipan and throughout the whole CNMI with almost 2,000. Census data shows 1,974 housing units in Garapan in 2010.

The other Saipan villages with the most number of housing units are Fina Sisu with 1,058, Dandan with 1,003, San Vicente with 807, Kagman III and Susupe with 760 each, and Gualo Rai with 759.

On Rota, most of the housing units are in Sinapalo with 465 and Songsong with 291.

On Tinian, San Jose has the most number of housing units at 652.

In terms of population count,

Saipan's Garapan, Dandan and Koblerville are the most populous of the 125 villages in the CNMI in 2010.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) said yesterday that one possible reason behind the increase in the number of housing units despite the decrease in population is that many young ones are deciding to live separate from their parents.

"They want to have their own place, they want to build their own house to be more independent from their parents," said Palacios, who has long-pending initiative seeking to reduce by half the number of Saipan lawmakers in the House from 18 to nine because of the population decline and to cut government spending.

Detailed demographic profiles for the CNMI and other U.S. territories are planned for release this summer, and summary files for release in the fall.

The housing unit counts and other information about the Island Areas can be found on the Island Areas press kit page at <http://2010.census.gov/news/press-kits/island-areas/island-areas.html>.

This is the third time since August 2011 that the Census Bureau has released 2010 census data.

that the individual defendants said anything that reasonably could be construed as suggesting that plaintiff was under criminal investigation. To infer otherwise would enlist the concept of defamation by implication which is disfavored in this jurisdiction," said Wiseman.

Wiseman said that Fernandez also failed to allege, or even mention, in her complaint the violation of any public policy in connection with her termination.

The regents are represented in the case by attorney Michael Dotts who expressed himself pleased with the judge's decision.

"I am, of course, very pleased with the decision, but I have not yet had the chance to fully review it with my clients. What will probably please them most is that the individual regents who were sued are now out of the case. The claims against the individual regents were all dismissed," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Dotts, the case will go on for now, but it will be a lot more simple. "We should be able to get it over with once and for all, fairly soon," he added.

board and asked for a jury trial in the U.S. District Court.

She filed six charges against NMC and individual regents, including breach of contract, breach of the covenant of good faith and fair dealing, wrongful termination, defamation, conspiracy to defame, and intentional interference with a contract.

On May 3, 2011, the district court dismissed counts 1 and 2 of Fernandez's complaint with prejudice and dismissed all other counts without prejudice. Dismissed with prejudice means the case cannot be reopened.

In his seven-page order issued Friday, Wiseman ruled in favor of the regents for counts 3, 4, and 5, saying there is no evidence that any of the individual regents published any false, defamatory, or stigmatizing statement about Fernandez. He then dismissed the claim of wrongful termination and defamation.

"The fact is there is no evidence

CPA personnel get across-the-board salary increase

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors approved Thursday an across-the-board salary increase for all personnel, including the agency's top management officials.

The decision was reached after a lengthy closed-door meeting by board members who also voted to renew the employment contracts of executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero and comptroller Derek Sasamoto. The two will each get a \$5,000 increase in their salaries.

"After a lengthy discussion [in the executive session] regarding personnel contracts and renewals, the board has agreed to approved the renewal [and adjustment in the salaries of Deleon Guerrero and Sasamoto] provided that an across-the-board increase will also be accorded to the administrative personnel of CPA," said board member Benigno Sablan in his motion that was later adopted by members.

The board, however, did not cite at the meeting the specific percentage of the merit increase that will be given its other personnel.

Deleon Guerrero's contract expired last Dec. 13 and was renewed for another term. *Saipan Tribune* learned that his current salary is \$80,000 per annum. He

started out at \$70,000, when he succeeded former executive director Efrain Camacho.

After Thursday's five-hour meeting, Deleon Guerrero said he has nothing but good plans for the ports authority. He said he is committed to making the agency a "better CPA."

For Sasamoto, the board voted to increase his current salary by \$5,000, boosting it to \$75,000. His contract will expire on March 6; this year marks his second year as CPA comptroller.

Saipan Tribune learned that it was Deleon Guerrero who recommended the increase in Sasamoto's salary. CPA managed to

exceed airport and seaport bond ratio requirements under Sasamoto's leadership.

Fitch Ratings upgraded its ratings on both CNMI seaport and airport revenue bonds last week. For the airport, rating was positively adjusted from "CCC" to "B-" which means the outlook was upgraded from "negative" to "stable." For the seaport, Fitch affirmed its "BB-" rating and upgraded its outlook from "negative" to "stable." Both upgrades signify that CPA is expected not to have difficulties in paying its debts and that cash flows are enough to cover debt service through its five-year forecast period.

The board learned that Sasamoto greatly assisted the executive director in convincing the Federal Aviation Administration to consider the passenger facility charges revenues as CPA operations revenue, which was key to meeting the federal bond requirements.

Given the many accomplishments that Sasamoto demonstrated, board members said that they had no reservation in approving his salary increase.

The board lauded Sasamoto, Deleon Guerrero, and the CPA management team for a "job well done" in the bond ratio requirements, which for many years have been hard for the

airport manager Thomas Manglona without change to his \$50,000 salary.


Last December, the contracts of other managers were renewed, including Saipan ports manager MaryAnn Lizama, Saipan airport manager Ed Mendiola, and Tinian airport manager Joseph Mendiola. They all receive \$50,000 per annum.

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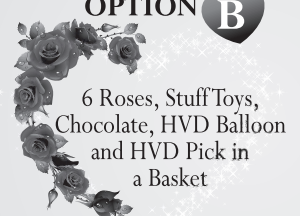
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

OPTION A



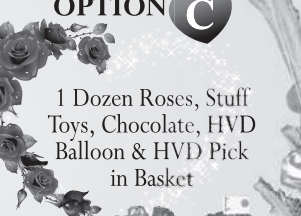
6 full bloom
Roses with mini
Roses in a
basket

OPTION B



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Chocolate, HVD Balloon
and HVD Pick in
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OPTION C



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Tinian businessman expands to Saipan with over \$2M investment

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Chinese investor who has been doing business in the Northern Marianas for a decade celebrated last Saturday the grand opening of additional businesses for his company.

Huang Shun Corp. officially opened to the public the Sunshine Garden apartment/hotel complex, Home Décor, and U-Save Supermarket II—all located behind the Marianas Business Plaza where an old garment factory used to be.

The project is estimated at more than \$2 million. A laundromat and a poker arcade are expected to open soon, according to company president Huang Yu Ren.

Huang led hundreds of community members and some government officials in the grand opening Saturday that featured performances by the

High Pitch Band, Te'ivi Maori Polynesian dance group, a lion dance, a delicious banquet, the lighting of firecrackers, and a fireworks show that lasted several minutes.

Huang Shun Corp. initially opened its doors in the Commonwealth on Tinian in 2002, with several businesses that included a supermarket, restaurant, beauty shop, a nightclub, farm, a laundromat, and poker room.

Huang, who first came to the CNMI in 1997, said that business has been slow on the island south of Saipan for some time now so he decided to expand to the Commonwealth's capital.

He said the well-appointed apartment/hotel complex is a cozy yet affordable place to stay for Tinian and Rota residents who visit Saipan. The home décor and supermarket establishments, meanwhile, cater not just to guests but also to the public.

Huang noted, though, that he will still continue to operate his businesses on Tinian.

"I'm confident about the business on Saipan because otherwise, I won't put that amount of investment. So I hope the economy of the CNMI will start to pick up in the near future," Huang told *Saipan Tribune* through a translator.

A native of Fijian province who has previously stayed in Japan, Huang heads the family-run business that employs some 50 workers.

According to Huang, investors like him need the assistance of the government through policies that he hopes would create a "good and business-friendly environment."

"In the future, I hope a lot of lawmakers would create positive policies to encourage more investors to come to the CNMI and help their businesses succeed," he said. "They



CLARISSA V. DAVID

From left, Huang Shun Corp. business partner Huang Yu Bin, Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz, and company president Huang Yu Ren smile for the camera at the grand opening of the Sunshine Garden, Home Decor, and U-Save Supermarket II last Saturday.

should treat all investors the same and I hope this positive attitude will continue."

Huang emphasized the need for the government to exert efforts to give foreign investors a chance to improve their immigration status. He said this gesture would help these investors to stay and even put additional investments in their businesses.

"We like it here because the environment is clean and the people are very friendly. It's very important to raise this immigration concern to improve the investors' status so they can stay and put more investments which would help boost the

economy," he said.

Huang also expressed hope that the local government will continue to be friendly and help investors in expanding their businesses. "If they succeed, it will be a good example for other business people so they will also come to the CNMI and establish their business. Therefore, it will help the local economy," he added.

Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz, who attended Saturday's event, congratulated Huang for the successful grand opening and commended him for his vision and commitment to help the economic situation

of the Northern Marianas.

"During this economic downturn, it's always very exciting when we see investors like Mr. Huang develop something like this," he said.

Dela Cruz pointed out that with the economic woes in the Commonwealth, the local government should give tax breaks as an incentive to investors such as Huang, encouraging them to venture into more businesses on Saipan, Tinian, and even Rota.

"His intuition, innovative ideas, and aggressiveness is going to spell success for his company and I congratulate him," added the mayor.

CPA denies Cushnie's extension request

The board of directors of the Commonwealth Ports Authority has denied the request of its former legal counsel, Douglas Cushnie, to stretch out by six more months his last payment to the agency.

Board members disclosed that Cushnie had asked last month for a deferment on his last payment amounting to \$33,333, which is part of the

settlement agreement he entered into with the ports authority.

CPA sued Cushnie in October 2007 for allegedly refusing to return \$265,144 that he allegedly overbilled the ports authority. The agency also sued him for alleged professional malpractice/professional negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, and breach of contract.

Cushnie was reportedly paid

a total of \$1.3 million for his services with CPA from June 2003 to September 2006.

A settlement agreement later inked by two parties required Cushnie to pay CPA \$150,000.

CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* that Cushnie's request is for the last payment of this settlement agreement. It was due last month.

(Moneth Deposa)

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NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

The Department of the Navy (Navy) announces its intent to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for a Live-Fire Training Range Complex (LFTRC) on Guam to Support the Guam Military Relocation.

The SEIS will evaluate the potential environmental consequences that may result from construction and operation of a live-fire training range complex and associated infrastructure on Guam to support the Guam Military Relocation. The SEIS supplements the Final EIS for the "Guam and CNMI Military Relocation; Relocating Marines from Okinawa, Visiting Aircraft Carrier Berthing, and Army Air and Missile Defense Task Force" dated July 2010. The Record of Decision for the Final EIS was signed on September 20, 2010, and published in the Federal Register on September 30, 2010 (Volume 75, Number 189, Page 60438). The SEIS is being prepared for the limited purpose of supplementing the 2010 Final EIS.

The proposed action that will be analyzed in the SEIS is to construct and operate a live-fire training range complex on Guam. The complex is intended to allow for the simultaneous use of all firing ranges to support individual service member training on Guam for the relocated Marines. The Navy has preliminarily identified five alternatives for the proposed action: two adjacent to Route 15/Andersen South, and three at the Naval Magazine (NAVMAG). The SEIS will also consider the No Action Alternative.

The Navy will host public open-house scoping meetings on Guam to obtain comments on the project scope and identify specific environmental concerns or topics for consideration in the SEIS. The public is encouraged to attend the open-house scoping meetings, which will be held at the following dates, times, and locations:

- Saturday, March 17, 2012, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, University of Guam Field House, Mangilao,
- Monday, March 19, 2012, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Southern High School, Santa Rita,
- Tuesday, March 20, 2012, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Yigo Gymnasium, Yigo.

Informational posters will be displayed and subject matter experts will be available during the open-house to discuss the proposed action, to answer questions, and to accept comments from the public. Written comments may be submitted at the scoping meetings. A Chamorro interpreter will be available. Interested agencies, individuals, and groups unable to attend the scoping open house are encouraged to submit comments by April 6, 2012. Mailed comments should be postmarked no later than April 6, 2012, Chamorro Standard Time (ChST) to ensure they are considered.

Mail comments to : Joint Guam Program Office Forward
P.O. 153246
Santa Rita, Guam 96915

An electronic comment form can also be obtained at http://bit.ly/Guam_LFTRC_SEIS and submitted via email. Government agencies, private-sector organizations, the general public, and other interested parties are encouraged to provide written comments for consideration in the Draft SEIS. The Navy will consider all comments received as they develop the Draft SEIS.

CPA urged to stop assessing fee for unrenovated dock

Tasi Tours and Transportation Inc. has asked the Commonwealth Ports Authority to stop assessing a fee for the use of the seaport dock until the facility is renovated.

Saipan Tribune learned that the company's president, Kazusuke Fukuju, wrote the CPA board last month to ask the agency to waive the \$1 facility fee being imposed on each of the company's customer.

CPA charges \$1 for every Tasi Tours customer who boards the M/V *Coral Queen* at the old seaplane ramp or at the Pacific Subsea dock in Lower Base. These boats ferry customers daily from Outer Cove Marina to Managaha.

The fee was imposed by the ports authority to fund the renovation and repair of the seaplane dock. However, there has been no action to renovate the facility up to now, and it was Tasi Tours that took it upon itself to temporarily repair the mudholes and pave the road leading to the facility.

It was learned that the company has been paying this facility fee since the start. It found out that other boats using the same dock are not assessed any fee. The company's owner told the CPA board that this is unfair.

According to CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero, the seaport division expects to collect \$70,000 this

year from the facility fee being collected from Tasi Tours.

During Thursday's board meeting, members discussed the Tasi Tours' request to waive this facility fee retroactively beginning Jan. 1 this year until such time that the dock has been renovated or until all boats are equally assessed fees.

The board, by a 5-1 vote, granted Tasi Tours' request pending the renovation plans. Member Barrie Toves, also the finance committee chairman, rejected the proposal, citing the need for revenues to pay for CPA personnel and operations cost.

According to Benigno Sablan, chairman of the seaports facility committee, once the ports authority formally takes over the operation of the Outer Cove Marina, necessary renovations and proper fees as well as regulations will be put in place for its effective operation.

Sablan acknowledged that the agency has to make some renovations before CPA can generate money from the marina.

Last Thursday, the board instructed the management to continue talks with the Executive Branch to expedite the "transfer" of the site's responsibility to CPA.

At present, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources is responsible for the marina. (Moneth Deposa)



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Boyer is GTC's top speller of the year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sixth grader Cameron Boyer is the big winner in Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School's spelling bee after besting nine other top spellers.

Boyer ruled the competition Thursday afternoon by correctly spelling all the words she got during the contest.

This is Boyer's second time to be one of the school's top spellers; she won fourth place two years ago.

"I felt proud and happy that my hard work paid off. This is my second time in the competition and it feels good," she told *Saipan Tribune* after the competition.

Ten students competed in the upper grade division. These spellers won their class-level contest, giving them the slot for the schoolwide competition.

Boyer said they were given only a few weeks to study words and review the competition rules. Besides being the top speller in the school, Boyer is also an active participant in other academic competitions such as the Chamorro Carolinian Heritage Language Studies where she will soon compete in Guam. She promised to do her best to bring honor to her school.

Recognized as GTC's second top speller was sixth grader Trinity Camacho, while sixth grader Miguel Aninon



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Sixth grader Cameron Boyer, left, is the big winner in Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School's spelling bee. Other photo shows Katie Pangelinan, center, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School's coordinator for the spelling bee contest in the lower grade division, posing with two of the lower division winners: third grader Rinto Takahashi, left, and second grader Akira Kadokura.

won third place. Jenny Villagomez coordinated the upper grade division competition.

In the lower grade division, three students were hailed top winners. These include Kiyokazu Gonzales for first grade; Akira Kadokura for second grade; and Rinto Takahashi for third grade.

According to Katie Pangelinan, coordinator for the spelling contest in the lower grade division, a total of 16 students

competed, with four representing the first grade while six represented the third and fourth grade levels respectively. Like the upper grade contestants, the 16 were winners in their own class spelling bee contests. All winners will be given certificates of recognition at a later date.

Spelling bees are conducted yearly in almost all levels of the Public School System. This aims to improve and advance

the skills associated with good spelling habit, enhance students' development of poise and communication under pressure, and to expand students' vocabulary and encourage accurate word usage and pronunciation.

Meantime, GTC principal Charlotte Camacho, along with the school staff and employees, also recognized Thursday their school counselor, Pao Camacho, as part of the celebration of School Counselors' Week.

Prosecution, defense rest in the case of Guam resident

The prosecution and defense have rested their case in the ongoing federal jury trial of Melvin David Diaz, a 49-year-old Guam resident who is accused of impregnating a girl on Rota.

After calling to the stand several witnesses, assistant U.S. at-

torney Clyde Lemons Jr. rested the prosecution's case on Thursday. Defense attorney David G. Banes also rested their case on Friday after calling in some witnesses.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances

Tydingco-Gatewood, who presided over the trial, ordered the parties to hold closing arguments today, Monday, at 9:30am. The trial began on Feb. 6.

Diaz is charged with three counts of enticement of a minor and one count of travel with

intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct.

According to the indictment, Diaz traveled from Guam to the CNMI between Aug. 1, 2010, and Sept. 30, 2010, to engage in illicit sex with the minor. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 13, 2001

House buries bill creating MVA office for Tinian, Rota

The House of Representatives yesterday tossed back to the committee legislation that the Senate amended to include the creation of separate Marianas Visitors Authority office each for Tinian and Rota, citing the need for further review. House members are concerned that the Senate's insertion of a provision that would establish the positions of deputy managing director for the two islands would not, at all, help MVA in promoting the Northern Marianas as a destination. Rep. Heinz Hofschneider said the Senate version of House Bill 12-295 spreads MVA responsibility very thinly, adding that it does not have anything to do with enhancing tourism policies. "All it does it add personnel."

Petition circulated to press shipment of PCB-laced soil

In a move to expedite the shipment of contaminated soil to the mainland United States, at least 50 residents of Saipan yesterday volunteered to circulate another petition letter calling for the Environmental Protection Agency's immediate action. According to Tanapag Action Group chair Juan I. Tenorio, the group offered its help following a presentation made last week in Garapan. The group hopes to gather more than 4,000 signatures on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. This is the second petition letter that will be circulating on Saipan; the first called on old and new Tanapag residents to advocate moves to ship off tons of contaminated soil excavated from the village.

Feb. 13, 2002

Enron collapse to affect NMI

Ripples emanating from the collapse of energy giant Enron Corp. will surely reach the shores of the CNMI, signaling impending changes in the accounting profession. In light of this, Public Auditor Michael Sablan said that now would probably be a good time to revisit the idea of granting an interdisciplinary global credential that goes beyond the Certified Public Accountant credential. Sablan told members of the Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants that, although the Enron implosion originated in Houston, Texas, today's greater global connectivity ensures that the fallout from the Enron scandal will affect all accounting professionals, including those in the Commonwealth.

Pete A. secures \$1-M in federal funds for DEQ

WASHINGTON—Working closely with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, NMI Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio secured the early release of over \$1 million in additional funds for the Division of Environmental Quality. This additional money will help the DEQ carry out major environmental projects as well as fund its operational spending, including personnel costs. By expediting the release of the money, Tenorio pointed out that there would be sufficient funds to cover payroll costs since initial grant funds were very close to complete depletion.

Feb. 13, 2003

Public hearings set for GHI privatization

The House Committee on Health and Welfare will slate two public hearings on the proposal to privatize the Group Health and Life Insurance program, expecting a record attendance on the bill that is seen to drastically change the government health insurance system as the CNMI knows it today. Committee Chairman Benjamin Seman said the House panel will first receive testimonies on House Bill 13-243 on Feb. 18, Tuesday, at the House chamber. Another public hearing on the bill is being scheduled for March 4, after office hours. Seman said insurance companies and other public agencies have already submitted testimonies on the bill and the common sentiment has, so far, been all in favor of House Bill 13-243.

CPA gets windfall from Pongsona

The Commonwealth Ports Authority realized a positive net income of nearly half-a-million dollars during the October-December 2002 period due to high passenger traffic from Korea and Japan. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas told board members during a meeting yesterday morning that passenger traffic from Japan and Korea helped the CNMI secure 25,000 more tourists during the October-December 2002 period. The additional traffic was brought on by Guam's inability to accommodate the visitors in the wake of supertyphoon Pongsona, which rendered various tourist areas damaged. From October 2002 to December 2002, the CPA generated \$911,000, \$905,000, and \$926,000 respectively. During the period under review, total expenditure reached \$2.2 million.



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All proposals are subject to acceptance by the NMIRF Board of Trustees in its sole discretion.

/s/ RICHARD S. VILLAGOMEZ
Administrator, NMI Retirement Fund



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AMENDMENT #03
NMHC IFB 2012-001

"CONSTRUCTION OF PERIMETER PATHWAY FOR SINAPALO CHILDREN'S PARK"

Proposal packets will be available on February 1, 2012, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and NMHC's Rota Field Office, Rota, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 9, 2012, at the proposed project site located in Sinapalo, Rota, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

This amendment shall reflect the corrected time on the bid submission for the aforementioned project. Bid submission date is on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 - 2:00 p.m.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply



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BID SUBMISSION DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2012 * TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2012-002

"ADA Compliance Retrofit of the Marianas Medical Referral Center (MMRC)"

Proposal packets will be available on February 1, 2012, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 8, 2012, at the proposed project site located in As Lito, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply



**NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND
WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION
GROUP HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE TRUST FUND**

**FINANCIAL AUDITS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. RF12-005**

OPENING DATE: February 6, 2012 CLOSING DATE: March 8, 2012

The Board of Trustees of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund is soliciting sealed proposals to perform a financial audit of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund (NMIRF), Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC), and Group Health and Life Insurance Trust Fund (GHLITF) for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2011 and 2012. To receive the RFP package, you may mail, fax or e-mail your request to:

Richard S. Villagomez, Administrator
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247 CK
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
Fax No. 670-664-8080
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

There will be a pre-proposal conference on Monday, February 13, 2012, at 9:00 am in the Fund Conference Room, Capitol Hill Saipan. Questions regarding the project must be submitted in writing to Richard S. Villagomez, Administrator, Fax No. (670) 664-8080 or emailed to administrator01@nmiretirement.com, no later than February 16, 2012 at 4:30 p.m.

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is the best interest of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.

//s// Richard S. Villagomez
Administrator



Invitation for Bids IFB12-GOV-037



Security Services for Water Task Force Warehouse

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Bids for Security Services for the Water Task Force Warehouse on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **January 23, 2012**.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for **10:00 a.m.** local time, **February 3, 2012**, at the CNMI Water Task Force Conference Room, 1316 Anatahan Dr., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

All questions regarding this IFB must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 pm, February 2, 2012**, to Mr. Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, facsimile number (670) 664-2279.

Bids must be sealed and marked "IFB12-GOV-037". For bidders within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **3:00 p.m.** local time, **February 21, 2012**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bid by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **3:00 p.m.** local time, **February 21, 2012**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **February 21, 2012**, and must be received no later than **March 1, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **March 5, 2012**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:30 pm local time on **February 21, 2012**.

The bid procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive any imperfections in any bid if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All Bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-12-006, REV. #1

PIPELINE PROJECT MANAGEMENT, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 8-INCH DIESEL FUEL PIPELINE FOR POWER PLANT 1 & 2

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is resoliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Project Management to include Design and Construction Management services for CUC's 8-Inch Diesel Fuel Pipeline Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Contractor shall furnish all labor, material and logistics associated with the Project Management Services including Design and Onsite Construction Management for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) from award to completion of the 8" diesel pipeline project. Tasks shall include but not be limited to weekly, monthly inspection reports, design completion, construction and quality assurance oversight, site visits and coordination with the CUC, construction contractor and regulatory agencies (including US EPA and/or US DOT). It is preferred that the contractor have the in-house capability and qualifications to perform all the functions required (i.e. - Project management to include Design and Construction Management services) and not subcontract any part to third party vendors.

The project involves replacement of an existing 8-inch aboveground petroleum pipeline (approx. 1 mile long) with an 8-inch underground pipeline from the Saipan seaport at the Mobil Oil Bulk Plant to CUC Power Plants 1 and 2. The underground pipe installation portion of the project includes archeological monitoring, excavation/trenching, shoring, placement of bedding, welding and testing of pipe segments, pressure relief valves, high and low point drains, valve pits, pipe jacket, bridge crossing, pipe pigging, cathodic protection, based on 49 CFR part 195 and other applicable codes. Design engineers are required to obtain the relevant licenses in CNMI, as per local professional licensing rules and regulations, details of which are available on the webpage, <http://cuccnmi.net/>.

This project is being performed under a stipulated order (SO) being overseen by the U.S. EPA and Federal Court. The project is funded primarily by a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), Office of Insular Affairs.

The Revised Scope-of-Work (SOW) will be **e-mailed** upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) (CHST-Chamorro Standard Time), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays. All other documentation can be downloaded from the website, <http://cuccnmi.net/>.

The response to this RFP must be received with the title "PIPELINE PROJECT MANAGEMENT, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 8-INCH DIESEL FUEL PIPELINE" and **shall only be sent** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via e-mail to manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via e-mail to mika.muna@cucgov.org no later than **Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** local time and the equivalent time of **Tuesday February 28, 2012, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time**. Late submissions and other means of submission will not be considered. A return receipt for the email must be requested and received by the proposer to ensure that the email transmission has been received by the deadline, by CUC.

All inquiries and clarifications must be submitted in writing no later than **Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 10:00 AM ChST**, and the equivalent time of Tuesday, February 21, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org; and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika.muna@cucgov.org. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation. All interested parties including those who have participated in the recently closed RFP are requested to also register through the website - <http://cuccnmi.net/> or e-mailing their request to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via e-mail mika.muna@cucgov.org, no later than **Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 10:00 AM (ChST)** local time or the equivalent time of **Tuesday, February 21, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time**. CUC requires all the proposers to send their questions in writing so that the responses can also be made available to all the interested vendors, well in time.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged by the Source Selection Committee (SSC). CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-12-007

SAN VICENTE SERVICE AREA EXTENSION, EXPLORING DRIVE-FINA SISU & HERMAN'S BAKERY WATERLINE REPLACEMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of San Vicente Service Area Extension, Exploring Drive-Fina Sisu & Herman's Bakery Waterline Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The project consists, in general of the extension of the San Vicente water service area to Dandan Village and the replacement of existing water distribution line from Exploring Drive to Fina Sisu and Herman's Bakery including appurtenances.

The proposed project will also include the installation of fire hydrants, air relief valves, blow-off-valves, new service lateral stub-outs and reconnection of existing service laterals to the new water distribution line.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 350.00 for one set; at the CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit will be held on **February 9, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-007, San Vicente Service Area Extension, Exploring Drive-Fina Sisu & Herman's Bakery Waterline Replacement Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 06, 2012**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 27, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org or Yvonne Cabrera, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant - mika.muna@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

Monday Morning in America

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



The Chrysler Super Bowl ad narrated by Clint Eastwood is a "Halftime in America" spirit booster that captured the nation's imagination.

We watched last week's Super Bowl (Monday in the CNMI) in Honolulu where competition is deeply ingrained in the UH Rainbow football, baseball, volleyball, and basketball. Cheerleaders, however, recognize that the Pacific islands' culture is less about winning as it is about playing the game; participation to the full extent of one's expenditure at a given moment is a kept intent before worrying about the competition. This is not too far from the Olympic Games' promotion of athletes competing against their own last record or performance.

Much of the gladiatorial flavor of American sports is out to "kill" the competition. This is high on emotional content as across the country, from kiddie to grown-up sports, when one plays the field with the intent of annihilating the other side. That language is also used in various marketing and sales' game plans.

We caught a subtle change in tone in the "Halftime in America" ad with its focus on the inner resolve of a nation to excel in its own game plan.

Hegelian dialectic rationalizes the competitive spirit. Life, it assumes, stands as a declarative thesis that is always confronted by its opposite, or that which it is not, its antithesis. *Sic et Non* to Anselm, echoing Aristotle. The intense clash between the two unto death results in the elimination of both and the creation of something new, the melding of both in the heat of struggle to produce a synthesis.

There is nothing wrong with the theory; it is rather dynamic and very useful in planning methodology when one determines blocks and constraints, with the possibility of change through proposals against contradictions to enhances the desirable IS, or banishes the unwanted IS-not. This is efficient in dealing with bricks and mortars, soils and nutrients, waters and canals. It is deadly when applied to people.

When Eastwood intones that "it is halftime America, and our second half is about to begin," the message is not to annihilate anything but to polish and enhance one's own performance, that of Detroit and the rest of America!

The Giants v. Patriots game was very telling about the ethos of playing well rather than bashing the competition. There were no *primo dons* whose primary acts were to hog the limelight. Fair and square, the players rated their own performance, and no one was heard bashing the other team for infraction of rules or display of inappropriate behavior. Wes Welker's missed catch might have cost the Patriots their game but it only broke Wes' heart. Save for media thrashing, remorse and recrimination were sparse.

Detroit was the recipient of Obama's massive bailout on the notion that assisting the auto industry was also assisting the ancillary industries related to it. The people ate crow, \$1.3 billion worth that it did not get back. The resurgence of the Detroit theme missed one side of the reality about the city.

"It's halftime. Both teams are in their locker room discussing what they can do to win this game in the second half," says Eastwood in his singular voice. "It's halftime in America, too. People are out

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Let's get off the treadmill and stationary bicycle

The more I think of our economy and where we are heading, the more I think of a treadmill and a stationary bicycle. Like both of these, we move but are not going anywhere. We keep doing the same repetitive acts and keep seeing the same scenery. We either walk or pedal at various speeds but in the end we are still in the same place. Where am I going with this analogy?

I wish to remind us that I present these thoughts not to criticize or to point fingers or to whine. But I hope to stimulate us into action. Once we know the problem and its solution, we must take corrective action at any cost. We must stop being tongue-tied and afraid of losing our job if we speak out. We must stop being afraid of hurting someone's feeling, especially when we know that person's actions are harmful to the community. To remain silent is to become a part of the problem and we deserve what we will get.

Over the past several years as our economy keeps sliding down, we seem to be moving but going nowhere to remedy the decline. Sadly we all know what the problems are and we really know the solutions but for some strange reason fail to implement them.

The first stimulus to improvement is to reflect and then to act! We must remind ourselves that the size and age of the country does not matter. A poor country is not poor because of lack of natural resources or because nature was cruel to it or it was dominated by foreign powers. It is poor because its people lack the proper attitude and the strong will to comply with and practice the functional principles of rich and developed countries.

There are basic reasons why some countries are rich and others poor. When we analyze the behavior of the people in rich and developed countries, we find the great majority follow the principals set below:

1. **Ethics** are the basic principles and the guiding lights through which any community weaves through. They are our moral philosophy. They keep us from becoming greedy and envious of each other. They involve right and wrong behavior. What are our ethical values in our community? Do we practice them and how well?

2. **Integrity** is one of the basic tenets in wealthy countries. It is defined as a firm adherence to a code of special moral values. In a nutshell: incorruptibility! How do our leaders and we fare?

3. **Responsibility** is a duty or obligation to satisfactorily perform or complete a task (assigned by someone, or created by one's own promise or circumstances) that one must fulfill, and which has a consequent penalty for failure. How do we rate on this principle?

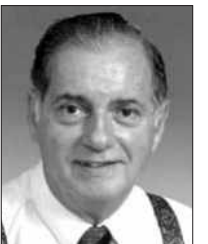
4. **Respect for the laws and rules** that we ourselves have set up. When we transgress them, we hurt ourselves and our community. How are we doing in this respect?

5. **Respect for the rights of other citizens** and the ability to blend in with all types of citizens regardless of their nationalities.

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



We must work as one unit. What level of tolerance do we share with our fellow citizens? Do we look down on them because they were not born here? Do we exploit them?

6. **Work loving** is the major driving force. Little dependence on handouts. We must not feel that we are entitled to anything except what we earn. We must possess a strong desire to earn what we need as basic necessities. Are we a work loving community? Think carefully before we answer. Could this be one of the problems holding us back?

7. **Strive for saving and investment.** Do we use our earnings carefully and plan for the future by careful investing? Look at what we have done to our pension fund. Why did we let it get so bad before we took action? Why are we so passive to allow others to hurt us? No one can hurt us unless we allow them to do so.

8. **Will of super action** simply means possessing the **proper attitude**. With a strong and proper attitude nothing becomes impossible. Even should we fail we still can hold our heads high with pride. I remember reading somewhere the following: "If you do not stand for something, you will fall for anything." What is our will of super action toward our depressing problems? Are we rising to the challenges they demand? Or do we just whine?

9. **Punctuality** is both a skill and an art. It is the action of being on time with any project or promise. How punctual we are also reflects attitude and other positive qualities in us. What is our scorecard on punctuality?

The above nine qualities are practiced and held in high esteem by wealthy nations.

Let's see some countries that do practice them. Japan comes to mind immediately. It has no natural resources and a limited territory. Eighty percent of the land is mountainous, inadequate for agriculture and cattle raising. But it is the third largest world economy. The country is like an immense floating factory, importing raw materials from the whole world and exporting manufactured products. Despite two major tragedies in the past year, it is rising rapidly from its ashes.

Another example is Switzerland, one of the smallest countries in

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EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Chatsaga na karera

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



Diariu humanau i amiguha machochu' giya Mañagaha. Sumasaunau mamulan bisita-ta siha ni man-nanañgu. Kada dia fotgun kasunesña sa' debi u halom gi halom tasi. Magof ni chicho'ña sa' lamegai gi Disiembre na mes bisita man-mattu.

Dispues de ha bira siha i turista halom gi tanu', ma-areglia i lugat ya maprepara talu para i sigiente dia. Man-ma-udai gi uttimu bote halom gi finagpu' cho'chu'. Ni unu gi bisita tumuñgu' na didog na pinadese humohogse tautau-ta siha guine gi halom rimulinon sumen baba na ekonomia.

I amiguha ayu minagofña i gai chechu'-gue 'nai ha sosoda mantension familiaña. Ti ma'lag atdau umestototba fan ataña soluke kuestion: Kau u guagua' mohon chech'ña pat u mana' basta yangin mas menos bisita ginen Japon yan otu lugat siha? Kau u homlu' tatte i industrian turista ni sessu mueye' gi pisu?

■■■

Kuestion cho'chu' i dañkulu na asuntun todus piot i nuebu na

mana' fan basta gi bisnis siha ni humuchum pettan niha. Mas dañkulu rimulinon chinatsagan empleau gobietnu ni lumilie' dañkulu maribahaña rinikohen kontribusion tax gi sakan deste \$250 miyon gi alacha papa' esta \$120 miyon.

Man-finagchae' los prohimus 'nos kuantos trompison chinatsaga gi hechuran dibin gobietnu gi programan man-ritirau, matot oran cho'chu', guaguan utilidat, kumahulu' fektus nesesidat, gaselina yan otu siha gastu. Gi mismu tiempu, i sueddo maribaha. Lamegai lokue' man-pinalo'pu' maliñgun primet na guma' familia. Taiguine chiña papa' chinatsagan i tanu'. Lau na ti guaha man-ofrese "better times?"

■■■

Mampos ha chu'oty' i maliñgun primet na guma' familia. Mandinispanta este siha na tautau-ta ginen trañkilidat palasyon familia. Todu hagas pinayon niha gi halom gima' niha matulaika piot 'nai man-sensaga gi gima' chelu 'sino parientes.

Kulan hu huhuñgog famaguon 'an mafaisen i mañainan niha ñgai'an 'nai para u bira siha tatte giya siha. Estague' na momentu i sumen na'triste gi dos saina 'nai mahuhuñgog finaisen famaguon niha inigoñg pas yan trañkilida gi hagas guma'. Makat gi dos saina 'an mahahassu para ñgai'an 'nai u fan gai gima' ta'lu.

■■■

Man-suette i man-madisplanta sa' trabiha memetgot ha' i sensian kilisyanu gi entalu famiia. Libianu malagnos kanai niha gi bandan ayudu. Lau hombre este na gineftau sen ti parehu yan i ta gogosa na pas yan trinankilu gi halom gima' ta mismu.

Makat sumensaga sa' hagu finenina debi un' fanuguñg gi maseha hafa na che'chu' i gai gima'. Yayas 'sino ti mauleg sinientemu, debi un' suñgun pot no u layu' i amun guma'. Fuetsau unna' grasiosu matamu pot sumensasaga hau.

the proposed monument (He also failed to predict the Great Recession and the rise of the tea party, which are by far the biggest reason the federal government has yet to fund the monument).

First of all, Iverson predicted the monument would be the largest or second largest in the world, which it is not. The Islands Unit, the only part of the monument that is a marine protected area, is only 10 percent of the size proposed by the Friends of the Monument. Logically, a small marine protected area needs less funding than a large marine protected area. Second, the study assumed the manager of the monument would be NOAA Office of Marine National Sanctuaries. However, management authority was given to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which is a different government agency in a different federal department with different priorities and different budgets. If Dr. Iverson were to reassess his numbers with these new assumptions, the numbers would be different and likely much less than \$10 million. I encourage readers to read the study to come to their own conclusions.

The economic study: <http://www.pewenvironment.org/newsroom/reports/the-economic-impact-of-a-proposed-mariana-trench-marine-national-monument-8589941039>

Also, while it is very easy to play the blame game, it must be noted that the CNMI had a great opportunity to fund the monument with ARRA. Were any ARRA funds requested for the monument? Or were certain people still steaming over its declaration and hoping that they could get it overturned rather than get it funded and working? There are some people, including Sablan, who want to see and are working very hard to make the monument fail. The opportunity to fund the monument with ARRA has now passed.

As for the concrete economic benefits that have been received

their daily life. We in the CNMI are not poor because we lack natural resources or because nature was cruel to us. We are poor because we lack the proper attitude. We lack the will to comply with and teach these functional principles of rich and developed countries.

Yes, I am preaching over and over again the same message. We can and must help ourselves. We have rich land, good climate, and many opportunities to help ourselves. What are we waiting for?

To be truthful and frank about our current attitude, I believe we have been spoiled for too long by the United States. We have developed a belief that we have the right to all kinds of free entitlements. I dread to think what would happen to our society should the United States stop funding so many of our activities. Think about the millions of dollars given to us yearly without earning them and no need to repay them. And we still feel we are entitled to more! Where would we be without this overly generous funding?

Spend a bit of time researching why countries such as Rwanda, Guinea-Bissau, Ethiopia and others like them are so poor. If we don't wake up, we will end up just like them. Hopefully by now you understand what we must do. Let's do it! Let's dig up the acres of diamonds under feet. Let's get off the treadmill and the stationary bikes and move!

Don't forget also to smile every day. Share that smile because it tells each of us that we love each other and want the best for us. Have a great week!

■■■

Lokue', ti libre hau chumochu maseha hafa malago'mu gi katkuet ora. Gigon otu oramu gi kusina, ensegidas masuspecha kau para un' chochu sin siha. Sentidu gi katkuet kinalamten. Ni achog chelumu, guaha todut tiempu inadahe piot asaguaña.

Yangin gumagualu' i chelumu, siempre un' tulus hau umayuda gi entalu tinanom yan munachochun pinegsai siha. Hombre 'an malañgu hit makat para ta letke 'an kalamten i prohimu. Siempre fuetsau un' kalamten.

■■■

Pagu 'an mama' i taguan hau, otu siempre matan niha kulan mandidibi hau kantida. Lau gigon kalamten hau talu, ma-atileg fasun niha kulan mohon todut mauleg. Un' suñgon kulan putin taduñg chigu pot sumensasaga hau.

■■■

Kada mattu hau gi gima' mañainamu un' hassu i mañge na sinienten hagas gima'mu. Sige hau umensinahyau para un' kesoda' esperanza gi tinayuyotmu kau ñgai'an mohon 'nai un' fañoda ta'lu fanliheñg famiia.

Makat na kuestion lau muñga hinalañg. Sige ha' manayuyot ginagau inesgaihon gi fitme na kanai i Saina. Ti uttimu suspirus i chinatsagamu. Lau pega inañgoghomu giya guiya solamismu. Siempre un' dia un' kineni' tatte gi hagas lugatmu.

I ta fapoposgue pagu guiya este i hemhom antes de umanana. Tat chalan ti barañka yan piligrosu. Muñga hinalula, na pasensia hau gi todut kinalamten-mu. Apela hau gi disposision i Saina sa' ti un' diniñgu mamaisa gi didog na oran inigoñg-mu.

Pagu yan un' guiguife gumana i lottery, na seguru na un' fahan i tekit antes de un' lalalu' sa' un' diskuida hau gi primet obligasionmu. Pinasensia. Si Iku.

since the monument's declaration, much of the credit is due to Delegate Kilili's hard work. He helped secure \$1/4 million the year the monument was declared to design a visitors center. For a number of reasons related to local politics, that money hasn't been spent and a visitors center has not been designed. That is not the federal government's fault; that is the local government's fault. Delegate Kilili also sponsored a bill that would have actually built the visitor's center in the Northern Marianas once it was designed, but that bill has yet to pass due to national politics and the current state of the national economy (You may remember when RNC Chairman Michael Steele visited the CNMI during the 2010 election and promised to cut federal spending? He delivered on his promise).

Despite the economic downturn, the federal government has hired at least two full-time employees on Saipan. I'll respect their privacy in this matter, but those jobs are a direct result of the monument declaration. They pay local taxes and support local businesses, creating jobs in the private sector. And despite Sablan's claim to the contrary, federal officials have visited Saipan on numerous occasions, staying in hotels, eating in restaurants, and supporting job creation in the private sector. The 2010 Coral Reef Task Force was also held on Saipan to highlight the creation of the monument. This conference brought tens of thousands of dollars to the local economy.

The CNMI also continues to receive global media attention due to the monument and other unrelated but similar environmental initiatives, such as the 2011 shark fin ban introduced by Diego Benavente and signed by Governor Fitial. This is international attention MVA would otherwise have to pay a premium on, so it saves the government untold hundreds of thousands of dollars at the same time it attracts tourists who spend money in the local economy. This is something the CNMI should leverage, which to date it has not.

And despite these unfounded criticisms, most importantly, our children are already benefiting from the monument declaration, and it was for them many of you reading this supported the monument's creation. In 2009, a recent graduate of Marianas High School was taken to the monument and wrote a book about that experience. Hundreds of copies of his book *Our Northern Islands* have been donated to the public schools, and once the Friends of the Monument raise more money, more will be donated. Before the monument was declared, how many people could even name the Northern Islands? Now our children have photos and stories to share from them. Also, NOAA provided our public schools with 100 copies of a lesson plan about exploring the Mariana Trench and trained Agnes McPhetres to "teach the teachers" on how to use them.

The community should be excited that they have the opportunity to participate in the management of their monument. Despite misconceptions that the federal government was going to take this part of the Marianas away, what they are really doing is reminding our people that this part of our home still belongs to us and that we need to take care of it. I encourage the community to attend the upcoming public meetings and to continue to work hard to protect our fragile natural heritage.

Angelo Villagomez
Washington, D.C.

Letters to the Editor

Monument blame game

First of all, let me just say that I am sending you this as an individual, not on behalf of any organization. I read the article about the monument in the Feb. 11 *Saipan Tribune* and have several comments. The criticisms made are clearly an issue of Ben Sablan trying to create controversy ahead of a visit by federal officials. Several of his statements are off base. Others are blatant falsehoods.

The reason the CNMI only has two seats on the monument advisory council right now is because the third seat was given to former DFW director Sylvan Igisomar. He recently retired and moved to Texas. Arnold Palacios was a last-minute replacement, and the federal government hasn't approved him yet. In fact, the local government hasn't even approved Palacios in his position, so it is ridiculous to criticize the federal government on this issue. Incidentally, Palacios has been invited to participate in the meetings as a full member.

The \$333 million "benefit" referred to by Sablan is also misleading. The University of Guam professor who authored the study Sablan cites talked about a 2008 "present value" of \$333 million, which is an economic term to describe what the area *could* be worth. The economic benefit the study predicted was actually only about \$10 million per year, with funds coming from a combination of federal funding, a boost in tourism from increased international exposure, and high-end tourism and research in the Northern Islands. Unfortunately Dr. Iverson made some incorrect assumptions about

TREADMILL

From Page 10

Europe, which does not plant cocoa but has the best chocolate in the world. In its little territory the people raise animals and plant the soil only four months per year because of its severe weather. Despite the quantity not being huge, they produce dairy products of the best quality. Switzerland is a small country that transmits an image of security, prosperity, order, and labor.

We can review other countries that are also rich such as Singapore and Korea. But we should also spend time reviewing why certain countries are poor. What principles do they follow that they remain poor?






Even executives from rich countries who communicate with their counterparts in poor countries show that there are no significant intellectual differences. Race or skin colors are also not important. Immigrants labeled lazy in their countries are the productive powers in rich countries. See the work habits of many of our nonresident workers and foreign owners of our small businesses. So what is the difference then? The difference is the *attitude of the people*. People in rich countries practice the nine principles above. That is the answer.

In poor countries, only a minority follow these basic principles in

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲87 ▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85 ▼80
Kosrae	Showers	▲85 ▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲84 ▼79

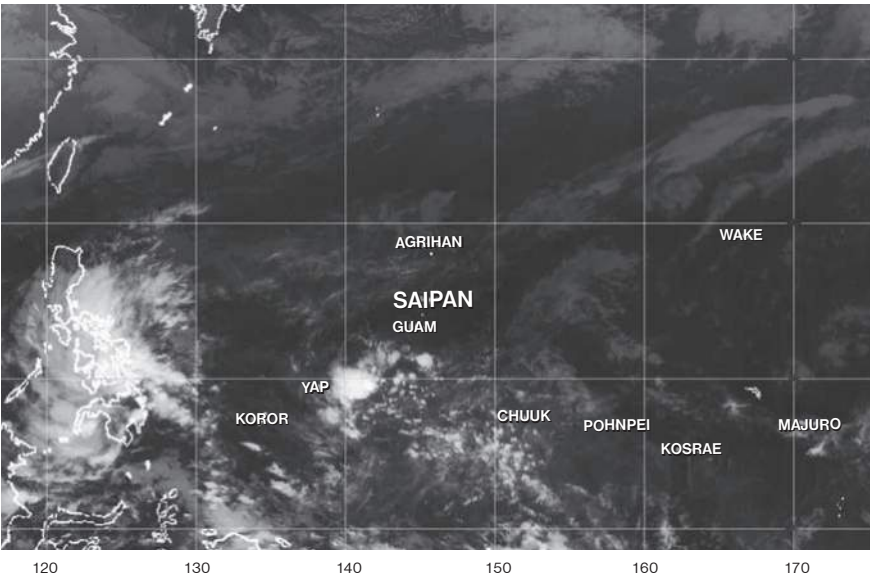
Around The Globe

Auckland	Thundershowers	▲71 ▼65
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲40 ▼20
Hong Kong	Showers	▲70 ▼65
Honolulu	Sunny	▲81 ▼69
London	Showers	▲43 ▼37
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲60 ▼42
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲78 ▼56
Miami	Showers	▲72 ▼64
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲39 ▼33
Osaka	Showers	▲48 ▼39
Paris	Ice	▲41 ▼29
Pusan	Showers	▲47 ▼35
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲46 ▼27
Salem	Showers	▲48 ▼34
San Francisco	Showers	▲53 ▼42
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲42 ▼23
Tokyo	Showers	▲47 ▼37
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲46 ▼36

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
5:15 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
11:14 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	
6:19 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weakening cold front extends southwestward from 25N170E to 21N150E then continues as a diffuse shear line to beyond 130E at 15N. Low-level cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 260 miles northwest of this boundary. A surface trough runs southeastward from 5N130E to end at EQ137E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring south of Koror between 7N and the equator from 130E to 141E. Another surface trough extends southeastward from 10N143E through a weak circulation centered southwest of Chuuk at 5N145E to end near EQ149E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of Guam within 60 miles of a line from 8N141E to 11N146E. Scattered showers are located well southeast of Yap between 6N and the equator from 141E to 144E and near Chuuk between 8N and 4N from 144E to 153E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Tuesday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM
Wednesday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM
Thursday	6:42 AM	6:21 PM
Friday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:28 PM	10:22 AM
Tuesday		11:13 AM
Wednesday	12:29 AM	12:07 PM
Thursday	1:29 AM	1:04 PM
Friday	2:28 AM	2:03 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:20am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7 DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6 DL580 10:10pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:40pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

O P I N I O N

Letters to the Editor

Presto!

Mr. John Del Rosario stipulated the idea or concept about “natural law” and “natural rights.” No one pressed this out for all to read; he did. I barely asked a simple question and it seems that one would be silenced by his writings and rich flavor of words which I and scores of others like me have difficulty understanding, and yet he would still think that he is doing a good job trying to communicate with the indigenous people of the Mariana Islands. He needs to level out to the height of reading comprehension so that we all can fully internalize what he is talking about and what he represents as an indigenous person of these islands. The notation of the persona of John Locke in the discourse so far is a good cue, and perhaps it is fitting to borrow a thought of John Locke again where he said, “We are like chameleons, we take our hue and the color of our moral character from those who are around us.” I am dreaming that soon enough Mr. Del Rosario would reflect with us and use his 40 years of journalistic experiences for the benefit of the indigenous people who are seeking guidance, clarification and teaching on subject matters that would be acceptable and sustainable to the future generation of indigenous people. This cockeyed idea of “I told you so,” or “trust me,” or “I know better than you” would not cure the ills of the large portion of the indigenous people’s confusion and doubts about the issue of landownership. The indigenous people are seeking for the answer, not Mr. John Del Rosario’s answer, but the answer. If moved as the rule in this discourse, Mr. John Del Rosario is not “should” but “is” an instrument for cure on landownership rights in the Mariana Islands.

We know from natural laws that man started as a dumb brute but in the course of human history evolved to the level of what we are today. We are all creatures of conflicts and contradictions. We see the world in terms of “subject” and “object.” This is what makes these discussions all too interesting. We will all learn, but we need to read ours first, before we could see what others’ views of reality or the illusion of man’s creations as it were.

What nature makes must have a beginning. Arguing over creation versus evolution of nature or the universe is a matter for another forum. But let us, for the sake of drawing in Mr. John Del Rosario, to keep us moving with his thought on “natural law”

and “natural rights” because we need to fill the void of knowledge the indigenous people have about landownership rights. If I were to believe Mr. Del Rosario, he would have to tell me what makes him think the way he checks with outer reality. I would like for him to tell me what he represents as a thinking machine. Is Mr. Del Rosario thinking as a utilitarian, contractarian, conservative, vitalist, structuralist, reductionist, deductionist, envisionist, or some all-encompassing profile branding his thought processes and outlook for mankind? What would describe his belief and inclination about this discussion? We need to know where he is coming from so we would be able to see his point of reference.

We know that man did not discover but invented language. This invention made possible for man to communicate and associate with others. These all say about natural laws. In the discussion by Mr. Del Rosario, he should enable to keep us tuned in on how natural laws where man used words to describe nature and thus relate to nature. Man’s dealings with nature are contradictory, but somehow we coined the idea about “natural law” and “natural rights.” So, we need for Mr. Del Rosario to expand on these matters. We will ask him more questions, when we know what his real talking points all about.

If the indigenous people are to hue with some credible authority for answers and guidance on important issues, we need to ask of that person to tell us “what is truth.” We know as well that man invented religion. This invention connected man to have restricted standards to his moral discretion. So, we need to start from the start by asking Mr. Del Rosario to school us on this. The answer to this simple question would aid the indigenous people cushion their hesitation for the run of the mill suggester lurking in the horizon.

We again turn this burden to Mr. Del Rosario and ask that he forges on to the conclusion of his convincing argument. The indigenous people should be the arbiter of the issues of landownership in the Mariana Islands. Take us to the premise and provide the factual evidence for all the points you have. The courtship with the indigenous people on this issue squarely returns to your courtroom. Presto, Mr. Del Rosario. Let your creative use of words be your gift to the indigenous people of the Mariana Islands.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

figure out what they can do for themselves, and strategically map out how. There is a new America emerging, indeed!

We recently noted in an article of Japan’s *Arigato* that the behavior of our Armed Forces was faithful to its heritage of officers trained as practical engineers, visionary builders, and construction commanders. It also promoted a leadership quality exemplified by West Point’s well-known Cadet Honor code that includes: *a cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do.*

Perhaps America at the level of intuition is naïve; ditto for this immigrant who was pumped up full of Americana’s homegrown virtues from VOA and USIS, but who became an American with open eyes rather than subservient gratitude; it is the old-fashioned American values of equal opportunity and fairness, liberty and freedom, adequate rewards for healthy toil, that made us raise our hands to become part of the family.

That’s the Team America I am playing for, and in the CNMI where America’s morning begins, we are going to win! Are you in the team?

L O C A L

Minority farmers, ranchers urged to join USDA’s Minority Farm Register

MAITE, Guam—The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency invites minority farmers and ranchers in Guam, the CNMI, and across the nation to voluntarily join the USDA Minority Farm Register to receive information and opportunities from USDA agencies.

“The new Minority Farm Register is an outreach tool to reach underserved farmers and ranchers who are not currently enrolled in USDA loan, farm or conservation programs,” said Thomas Camacho, Guam and CNMI County FSA county executive director. “The Register is a shared outreach list that will help USDA, community-based organizations and minority-serving educational institutions to communicate with minority farmers and ranchers.”

By joining the Register, minority producers may receive outreach materials, newsletters, and program announcements from USDA agencies. They may also receive information and assistance from other USDA-approved outreach partners, such as community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and minority-serving educational institutions. USDA will carefully control access to and use of the Register.

Individuals wishing to join the Register must sign and date a form that provides their name and ad-

dress. Providing phone numbers, e-mail address, race, ethnicity, gender and farm or ranch location will be voluntary, although the additional information increases the producer’s opportunities for receiving timely assistance.

The Register pamphlet with the registration form is available at the Guam County USDA Service Center or from approved USDA outreach partners. Completed forms may be mailed to: USDA Minority Farm Register, USDA Stop Code 0503, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250. FSA and USDA’s Office of Advocacy and Outreach are jointly admin-

istering the Register. Registration forms are available in Spanish (AD-2035SP) and English (AD-2035) on the FSA web site (www.fsa.usda.gov) under “Forms.”

An individual may remove his or her name from the Register by writing to the Minority Farm Register, USDA Stop Code 0503, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250.

For more information, contact the Farm Service Agency, STOP 0503, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0503 (Call 1-866-538-2610; Fax: 1-866-302-1760; E-mail: MSDA@USDA.gov). (**USDA**)

MMAC seeking cancer survivors

The 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer committee is inviting all cancer survivors and those currently undergoing cancer treatment to register and attend the survivor dinner held in their honor at the annual event.

“Every year we hear of more and more people getting diagnosed with cancer. We also hear of more and more people beating cancer and the annual survivor dinner is our way of celebrating our loved ones who have been directly touched by cancer,” said 2012 overall MMAC chair Catherine Attao-Toves. “There will be a complimentary dinner available for all cancer survivors who register and attend. In addition, each

survivor will be given a unique medallion and t-shirt in honor of their fight against this deadly affliction. We encourage survivors to attend as a show of strength and inspiration.”

To register for the survivor dinner or for more information contact survivor committee chair Nora Sablan at 235-0994 or email norasablan@gmail.com.

The 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held from 6pm to 6am on April 27-28 at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. Call 285-1828 or email attaoc@yahoo.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org for more information. (**MMAC**)

Navy to prepare supplemental EIS for live fire training ranges in Guam

ASAN, Guam—The Department of Navy on Friday published a Notice of Intent to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for a live fire training range complex to support the relocation of U.S. Marines from Okinawa, Japan to Guam. A public scoping period has now begun and comments will be accepted until midnight, April 6, 2012 (Chamorro Standard Time).

The SEIS will supplement the Final EIS for the Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Military Relocation. The SEIS is specific to the live fire training range complex in Guam and will evaluate the potential environmental consequences that may result from the construction and operation of the complex and associated infrastructure.

In response to public concerns, a decision on the location for the live fire training range complex was deferred in the September 2010 Record of Decision on the Final EIS.

In January 2011, the Under Secretary of the Navy committed that the proposed live fire training activities would be conducted in a manner such that access to Pagat Village, Cave, and the existing trail leading to these sites would remain available 24 hours per day, seven days per week as is currently available today. Since that time, the Navy has been evaluating options

to satisfy this commitment while also meeting the training requirements of the relocating Marines.

The Navy has preliminarily identified five alternatives for the range complex: two in the areas adjacent to Route 15, and three at the Naval Magazine (NAVMAG), also known as the Naval Munitions Site. The SEIS will also consider the No Action Alternative.

“The Navy takes very seriously the concerns raised during the previous EIS process and remains committed to its promise to not impact access to Pagat Village and Cave,” said Joint Guam Program Office Director Joseph Ludovici. “None of the alternatives that are currently under consideration for the SEIS will affect these areas.”

The training range complex is necessary to effectively meet Marine Corps individual weapons training. The live fire training range complex will consist of a Known Distance (KD) rifle range, KD pistol range, Modified Record of Fire Range, nonstandard small arms range, Multipurpose Machine Gun Range, and a hand grenade range. The proposed action also includes associated roadways and supporting infrastructure.

The Navy will hold three public, open house style scoping meetings in Guam. During the meetings, the Navy will collect public comments on the SEIS scope, en-

vironmental concerns or topics for consideration.

Meetings will be held as follows:

- Saturday, March 17, from 1pm to 5pm, University of Guam Field House, Mangilao
- Monday, March 19, from 5pm to 9pm, Southern High School, Santa Rita
- Tuesday, March 20, from 5pm to 9pm, Yigo Gymnasium, Yigo

Interested parties who are unable to attend the scoping meetings may provide comments online at http://bit.ly/Guam_LFTRC_SEIS or by mail. Comments may be mailed to:

Joint Guam Program Office (JGPO) Forward
P.O. Box 153246
Santa Rita, Guam 96915

“Public participation in the SEIS process is very important to the Navy,” Ludovici said. “Comments from the community will help us shape what we will study and to better understand the potential impacts of the training ranges.”

The scoping period will remain open until midnight April 6, 2012 (Chamorro Standard Time). All mailed comments must be postmarked by that date.

For more information, visit the project website at http://bit.ly/Guam_LFTRC_SEIS. Access to the website is public. Individual computer settings may prompt a certificate error pop up message. Just accept the certificate in the pop up window to proceed to the site. As a reminder, the website address is case sensitive. (**JGPO**)

MONDAY

From Page 10

of work and they’re hurting and they’re all wondering what they’re going to do to make a comeback and we’re all scared because this isn’t a game. The people of Detroit know a little something about this,” and then touts Detroit’s comeback.

My Chinese spouse and I were in Detroit in the winter of 2005 to visit my daughter’s family and firstborn. My purpose was less than noble. There is no worse time to see the blight of inner city America than on winter, and with my spouse’s understandable rush to get to America, Detroit played its expected role, temporarily dampening the enthusiasm.

Now, something is happening in many neighborhoods, wards and villages in the city. Reformulation of local structures and behaviors is taking place. Local gardens are sprouting, community assemblies are being held, and neighborhood associations are being organized. People gather around tables to

Flowers, gift items say it best this Valentine's Day

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Valentine's Day is a chance for people to demonstrate their love and affection for that special someone—a tradition celebrated by millions around the world. What better way to show your loved ones how extraordinary they are by sending them the gift of flowers?

Flowers, no matter what type, size, or color, have long been part of the Valentine's Day tradition. For many, sending that perfect flower arrangement is the perfect way to express one's love.

That's why flower shops on Saipan prepare way ahead of Valentine's Day, one of their busiest occasions as they take on the role of Cupid and sell

and even deliver flowers to customers all over the island. Even last-minute buyers need not worry about getting that special flower arrangement for the most special person in their lives. Our local florists will certainly help you convey your feelings. Saipan Tribune rounds up the beautiful floral offerings of several flower shops on island.



BLOSSOMS FLORAL & DEPOT

Create a lasting impression with flowers from the Blossoms Floral & Depot at the JET Building in Gualo Rai.

This flower shop offers customers a wide selection of flowers to choose from, starting

with the traditional fresh, long stemmed Ecuadorian roses in various colors to other flowers that women adore such as gerbera and lilies.

The price for a rose arranged in a vase partner and paired with other novelty Valentine items such as a stuffed toy

and candies starts at \$18 while wrapped roses start at \$11. Valentine baskets, buckets, and gift boxes are also available for delivery.

For orders or inquiries, visit the store next to City Trust Bank and J's Restaurant along Middle Road or call 235-2276 or 7372.



DESIGN FLORIST

Located at the Cabrera Center along Beach Road, the locally owned Design Florist shop offers the finest floral arrangements and Valentine gifts. Their sumptuous offerings include the popular red, pink, and white Ecuadorian

roses, daisies, carnations, and gladiola exquisitely arranged with pompoms.

A single wrapped rose is very affordable at just \$5 while an elegant bouquet is within anyone's means at \$18. Special and deluxe arrangements for half or

a dozen flowers are also offered with teddy bears, chocolates, fruits, and wines. For a minimum delivery price of \$3, your significant other will receive his or her right at their doorstep.

For orders or inquiries, call 235-1414 or 8572 or 234-5593.



ISLAND FLORALS AND GIFTS

This Heart's Day, let Island Florals & Gifts make your loved one feel extra special with an array of exquisite flowers and the biggest collection of Valentine gift items such as chocolates, stuffed animals, bags, candle holders, huggable pillows, mugs, shirts, slippers, and oil burners.

Their skilled team of floral designers is hard at work to deliver thousands of roses, calla lilies, carnations, gerbera and other flowers to make star-struck lovers and family members blissful this Valentine's Day.

"At Island Florals & Gifts, we customize the perfect floral arrangement to fit your budget," said manager Philip Canuto,

adding that many of their clients are off-island and placed their orders through their website, www.islandfloralsandgifts.com.

Be romantic and make your special someone realize that you're thinking of them always at Island Florals & Gifts. For orders or inquiries, visit them across from Saipan Grand Hotel in Susupe or call 235-2230.



NEW PARADISE FLORIST

Present your Valentine with a pretty bouquet or floral arrangement courtesy of New Paradise Florist located next to Cell Corea along Middle Road.

This humble flower shop

has been helping customers choose and customize flowers such as roses, lilies, snapdragon, gerbera, carnation, and others according to their liking.

They have fruits, wine, and

other gift baskets as well as other Valentine items such as balloons, stuffed toys, body lotion and spray.

For orders or information, call 233-9875 or 785-8057 and look for Robert.

Shirley's offers Valentine's special dinner

Looking for an affordable and romantic way to celebrate the Day of Hearts? Look no further as Shirley's Coffee Shops in Garapan and Susupe will be offering a Valentine's Day promotion that is simply irresistible.

Dubbed the Valentine's Dinner Special, for just \$19.95, diners could savor the restaurant's package meal promo that includes grilled sirloin steak, grilled shrimp, soup, pineapple salad, corn on a cob, a serving

of rice, and two glasses white or red wine. The meal is good for two and is available for dine-in customers only from 6pm to 10pm on Feb. 14, 2012.

For Susupe branch patrons, the outlet will especially be spruced up with Valentine's Day décor to heighten the romantic ambiance for the Day of Hearts.

Founded in 1983, Shirley's Coffee Shop has been serving the best of Chamorro, Filipino, and American cuisines in gen-

erous servings on Saipan and in Guam.

Shirley's in Susupe and Garapan also offers the daily lunch specials for only \$8.95. The daily lunch specials are good for two and ideal for office workers who are on the go and on a tight budget.

For reservations for Shirley's Coffee Shop's Valentine's Special Dinner, call the Garapan restaurant at 233-4519 to 20 or the Susupe branch at 235-5379 to 80. (PR)

NMC's Start Smart Seminar



NMC
Senate President Paul A. Manglona delivers his remarks during the Northern Marianas College's Rota Start Smart Seminar at the former Rota High School last week. Manglona urged students to absorb the information provided them during the event. He was one of two guests who delivered inspirational remarks on the importance of attending college.



NMC
Sgt. Bill Manglona of the Department of Public Safety, middle, answers questions posed by students about the transition from high school to college during the "I'm Graduating, Now What?" segment of the event. He also discussed aspects about his career and the vocational choices students have after high school.



Students reach across during an icebreaker activity called the "Human Knot." The Human Knot activity is aimed at encouraging students to work as a team. **NMC**



NMC
Students coordinate with each other in untangling themselves during a team building exercise. The activity strived to introduce students to each other and heighten their comfort level.



NMC
Rota Health Clinic nurse Belinda Taimanao, center, speaks to students about college life during the "I'm Graduating, Now What?" portion of the seminar. She also answered questions about being accepted and admitted into college.



NMC
Outreach counselor Barnaby Lizama discusses the College Access Challenge Grant's Summer Academy. The Summer Academy allows high school juniors and seniors the chance to experience college life and earn college credits by enrolling in the College Success class.



Students pose with their NMC drawstring bags and folders at the conclusion of the seminar. The event was made possible with funds from the College Access Challenge Grant Program. **NMC**

Business

Obama budget: New spending with several recycled tax ideas

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House is focusing on re-election themes such as jobs and public works projects in President Barack Obama's new budget blueprint while relying on familiar but never enacted tax increases on the wealthy and corporations to reduce future deficits after four years of trillion-dollar-plus shortfalls.

Obama's 2013 budget, set for release Monday, is the official start to an election-year budget battle with Republicans. It's unlikely to result in a genuine effort to address the \$15 trillion national debt or the entrenched deficits that keep piling on to it. But it will serve as the Democrats' party-defining template on this year's election stakes.

The president's plan is laden with stimulus-style initiatives: sharp increases for highway

construction and school modernization, and a new tax credit for businesses that add jobs. But it avoids sacrifice with only minimal curbs on the unsustainable growth of Medicare even as it proposes a 10-year, \$61 billion "financial crisis responsibility fee" on big banks to recoup the 2008 Wall Street bailout.

This budget plan, administration officials say, borrows heavily from Obama's recommendations in September to a congressional deficit "super-committee" that was assigned to come up with at least \$1.2 trillion in deficit savings as part of last summer's default-avoiding budget and debt pact. The panel deadlocked and left Washington to struggle with bruising across-the-board spending cuts that kick in next January.

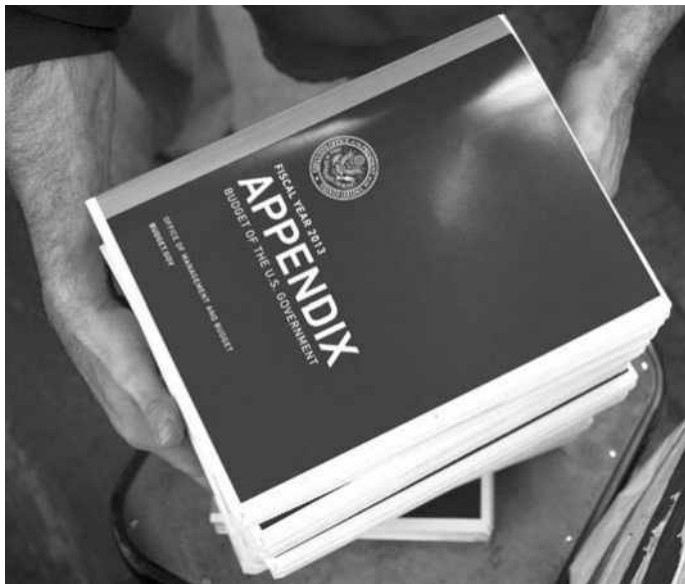
Even before the budget comes out, House-Senate negotiators were working over the weekend on proposals to pay for renewing jobless benefits and Obama's 2 percentage point cut in the Social Security payroll tax due to expire Feb. 29.

Proposals such as requiring a \$100 per-takeoff fee on airlines and private jet owners, auctioning broadcast spectrum, and raising pension guarantee insurance premiums are in the mix as negotiators seek \$160 billion or more in deficit savings to pay for a 10-month extension of the payroll tax cut and federal jobless benefits.

The president's budget plan predicts a deficit of \$1.3 trillion for 2012 and a \$901 billion deficit in the 2013 budget year, which starts Oct. 1. It claims deficit savings of more than \$4 trillion over a decade, mixing \$1 trillion already banked through last summer's clampdown on agency operating budgets with \$1.5 trillion in higher tax revenues reaped from an overhaul of the tax code.

An additional \$1 trillion, more or less, would come from war savings, a move that budget watchdogs call an accounting gimmick, especially because the administration also wants to devote some of those savings to pay for \$476 billion in road and bridge projects over the coming six years.

The budget also futilely asks Congress to adopt a "Buffett Rule" guaranteeing that households with a yearly income of more \$1 million pay federal taxes equal to at least 30 percent of it.



Copies of the appendix of President Barack Obama's fiscal 2013 federal budget are readied at the Government Printing Office in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012.

Staff at The Sun tabloid arrested in bribe inquiry

LONDON (AP)—Britain's biggest-selling newspaper was fighting to contain the damage after five employees at The Sun tabloid were arrested Saturday in an inquiry into the alleged payment of bribes to police and other officials.

Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., which owns the newspaper, said police had searched their homes and the group's London offices, potentially deepening the scandal over British tabloid wrongdoing.

The Sun's deputy editor Geoff Webster, picture editor John Edwards, chief reporter John Kay, chief foreign correspondent Nick Parker and reporter John Sturgis were those arrested, News International CEO Tom Mockridge said in a message emailed to staff.

Executives moved quickly to reject claims that Murdoch could decide to close down the newspaper. In July, he shuttered the 168-year-old News of the World tabloid amid public outrage when

the extent of its phone hacking of celebrities, public figures and crime victims was exposed.

Mockridge said he had been given a "personal assurance today from Rupert Murdoch about his total commitment to continue to own and publish The Sun newspaper." Mockridge acknowledged that the tabloid and its employees were "facing our greatest challenge," but urged them not to prejudice the outcome of the police investigation.

A 39-year-old female employee at Britain's defense ministry, a 36-year-old male member of the armed forces and a 39-year-old serving police officer with Surrey Police, were also arrested Saturday, police said. All eight suspects were later released on bail.

The development follows the arrest of four current and former journalists at The Sun newspaper last month in connection with the same bribery inquiry.

Sun editor Dominic Mohan expressed his alarm at the ar-

rests of newspaper employees, but insisted the six-day-a-week newspaper would continue its work.

"I'm as shocked as anyone by today's arrests, but am determined to lead The Sun through these difficult times," Mohan said in a statement. "I have a brilliant staff and we have a duty to serve our readers and will continue to do that. Our focus is on putting out Monday's newspaper."

Two people familiar with the matter, both of whom requested anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the issue, said Murdoch was scheduled to head to London in the near future to spend time with the company's journalists. One person explained that the trip had been planned for some time and wasn't in reaction to the latest arrests.

News Corp. declined to comment on Murdoch's travel plans, or on whether he planned to address staff at The Sun.

Nation

Powell boys remembered

TACOMA, Wash. (AP)—More than a thousand people mourned the deaths of Charlie and Braden Powell at a public funeral Saturday, nearly a week after the young boys' father killed them and himself in a gas-fueled blaze.

"We want to celebrate their

innocence today," said the Rev. Dean Curry, lead pastor of Life Center Church in Tacoma. "We want to be grateful for the moments we had with these children."

The boys' grandfather Chuck Cox thanked police, social workers, teachers and

everyone who cared for Charlie, 7, and Braden, 5, as well as people who had prayed for the boys after they died.

It "helps us to know that there are good people in the world—good people who fight against evil," Cox said.

At the front of the church's sanctuary, the boys were in a single casket topped with a large flower arrangement that included daisies, roses and sunflowers.

"We know that they're with their mother," Cox said, remembering his daughter, Susan Powell, who has been missing for two years and is presumed dead.

The boys' father, Josh Powell, was in the middle of a custody battle with Cox when he torched his rental home in Graham last Sunday.

Josh Powell was a person of interest in his wife's disappearance in Utah two years ago, and prosecutors consider the fire an admission that he killed her.

Cox gained custody of the children more than five months ago after police arrested Josh Powell's father, Steve, on voyeurism and child pornography charges.



Family members hug following a funeral service for Charlie and Braden Powell, Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012, in Tacoma, Wash. Charlie and Braden died Feb. 5, 2012, when their father, Josh Powell, set fire to the home he was living in while the boys visited.

Maine GOP chairman says Romney wins caucuses

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—Mitt Romney narrowly won Maine's Republican caucuses, state party officials announced Saturday, providing his campaign with a much-needed boost after three straight losses earlier this week. But the former Massachusetts governor won just a plurality of the Maine vote, suggesting he still has work to do to unite GOP voters behind his candidacy.

At a gathering in Portland, state Republican Chairman Charlie Webster announced Romney had won with 2,190 votes, or 39 percent, compared to 1,996—about 36 percent—for Ron Paul, the only other candidate to aggressively com-

pete in the state. Rick Santorum received 989 votes and Newt Gingrich won 349, but neither actively campaigned there. Other candidates drew 61 votes.

The totals reflected about 84 percent of the state's precincts. Webster insisted that any caucus results that come in after Saturday wouldn't be counted no matter how close the vote.

"Some caucuses decided not to participate in this poll and will caucus after this announcement," Webster said. "Their results will not be factored in. The absent votes will not be factored into this announcement after the fact."

Romney's win, combined with his victory in the presiden-

tial straw poll at the Conservative Political Action Committee conference in Washington hours earlier, helped slow an embarrassing skid that began Tuesday when he lost contests in Missouri, Minnesota and Colorado to Santorum. The twin triumphs dampened the perception—for now—that conservatives were unwilling to support Romney.

Romney's campaign has demonstrated skill and flexibility in winning a big state like Florida and eking out a victory in a low-turnout contest like Maine, where organization and voter contact are essential. Out of Maine's 258,000 registered Republicans, nearly 5,600 cast ballots in the weeklong contest.

Remains in Calif. ID'd as serial killers' victim

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Human remains uncovered in Northern California with the help of a convicted serial killer

Authorities were still awaiting the results of a DNA analysis to confirm the identification, Garcia said.



have been preliminarily identified as one of his victims, and authorities continued to search another site for the remains of as many as 10 people. Dental records identified the remains found Thursday in Calaveras County as those of Cyndi Vanderheiden, 25, San Joaquin sheriff's spokesman Les Garcia said Saturday.

Cyndi Vanderheiden's father, John Vanderheiden, said he is waiting the DNA results but he is almost sure the remains are those of his daughter.

"There will be closure after that," he said.

Searchers following a map prepared by convicted serial killer and death row inmate Wesley Shermantine have

so far uncovered two sets of remains near property once owned by Shermantine's family about 60 miles south of Sacramento.

One set is believed to belong to Vanderheiden, who disappeared in 1998, and the other is believed to be 16-year-old Chevelle "Chevy" Wheeler.

Authorities have not positively identified the remains found Friday as those of Wheeler. But Wheeler's parents said they were notified that the remains were found in a spot where Shermantine said their daughter was buried after she disappeared in 1985.

Asia

Inside the making of the Bali bombs

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—An Indonesian militant charged in the 2002 Bali terrorist attacks told interrogators he spent weeks holed up in a rented house, painstakingly building a half-ton bomb using household items including a rice ladle, a grocer's scale and plastic bags.

A transcript of the Umar Patek's interrogation obtained by The Associated Press offers extraordinary detail of the Bali plot just days before Patek—a radical Islamist once Southeast Asia's most-wanted bomb-making suspect—goes on trial in Jakarta for his alleged role in the nightclub attack that killed 202 people.

Patek, known as "Demolition Man" for his expertise with explosives, says he and other conspirators stashed the 1,540-pound (700-kilogram) bomb in four filing cabinets, loaded them in a Mitsubishi L300 van along with a TNT vest bomb. The van was detonated outside two nightclubs on Bali's famous Kuta beach on Oct. 12, 2002. Most of those killed were foreign tourists.

The suspect told police that a small explosion occurred when they were loading the bomb in a van, nearly derailing the plot, according to the transcript.

Although homemade bombs are easily assembled by militants all over the world, making such powerful devices as those used in Bali—and using such unsophisticated equipment—would have taken enormous amount of care and expertise.

Patek, 45, goes on trial Monday following a nine-year flight from justice that took him from Indonesia to the Philippines to Pakistan, reportedly in pursuit of more terrorism opportunities.

He was finally caught in January 2011 in the same Pakistani town where U.S. Navy SEALs would kill Osama bin Laden just a few months later. Patek was hiding out in a second-floor room of a house in Abbottabad, a \$1 million bounty on his head, when Pakistani security forces, acting on a tip from the CIA, burst in.



In this Nov. 29, 2011 file photo, terrorist suspect Umar Patek, center, is escorted by police officers as he arrives to testify for his wife, Ruqayah binti Husein Luceno, who is on trial for immigration violations, at a district court in Jakarta, Indonesia.

After a firefight that left Patek wounded, he was captured and extradited to Indonesia.

His capture was seen as a yardstick of the successes that Asian security forces, with U.S. help, have achieved against Jemaah Islamiyah, the al-Qaida-linked regional terror group blamed for the Bali bombings and several other attacks in Indonesia. All its other leaders have been executed, killed by security forces, or are on death row.

Patek is charged with premeditated murder, hiding information about terrorism, illegal possession of explosives and conspiracy to commit terrorism, and now faces a possible death sentence as well. The indictment also accuses Patek of providing explosives for a string of Christmas Eve attacks on churches in 2000 that claimed 19 lives.

Interviews with intelligence officials in Indonesia and the Philippines, the interrogation report and other documents obtained by the AP reveal the peripatetic life Patek led after the Bali attacks as he ranged widely and freely, often without passing through immigration checks, while allegedly passing along his bomb-making skills to other terrorists.

The interviewed officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to discuss intelligence matters with reporters.

Patek, whose real name is

Hisyam bin Alizein, is the son of a goat meat trader. He went to computer school and learned English before being recruited into Jemaah Islamiyah by Dulmatin, a fellow militant who was gunned down by Indonesian police in March 2010.

After his arrest, Patek told his interrogators that he learned to make bombs during a 1991-1994 stint at a militant academy in Pakistan's Satta province, and later in Turkhom, Afghanistan, where bomb-making courses ranged "from basic to very difficult."

He said he was living in Solo, Indonesia, when mastermind Imam Samudra approached him to make a bomb in Bali. He agreed and flew to Denpasar, Bali's capital, and was taken to a rented house.

"In one room of the house, I began to mix the explosive ingredients, which were already in the rental house," he said.

"For about three weeks, I made the explosive ingredients into black powder with the assistance of Sawad (a co-conspirator). For tools used in the mixing of the ingredients, I used (a) scale that will usually be used in a food store, rice ladle and plastic bags as containers."

Dulmatin separately worked on the electronic circuits, which were later attached as detonators to the bombs packed into the filing cabinets.

stan. The deputy governor of Uruzgan province, Haji Khubirahim, says the policemen were patrolling in their vehicle when it hit a roadside mine in Chanartu district. He says one civilian also was wounded in the blast, which occurred early on Saturday morning.

Thousands march against nuclear power in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—Thousands of Japanese people marched against nuclear power Saturday, amid growing worries about the restarting of reactors idled after the March 11 meltdown disaster in northeastern Japan. Holding "No Nukes" signs, people gathered at Yoyogi Park in Tokyo for a rally Saturday, including Nobel Prize-winning writer Kenzaburo Oe. The protesters then marched peacefully through the streets demanding Japan abandon atomic power.

World

Syrian general assassinated in Damascus

BEIRUT (AP)—Gunmen assassinated an army general in Damascus Saturday in the first killing of a high ranking military officer in the Syrian capital since the uprising against President Bashar Assad's regime began in March, the country's state-run news agency said.

The attack could be a sign that armed members of the opposition, who have carried out attacks on the military elsewhere in the country, are trying to step up action in the tightly controlled capital, which has been relatively quiet compared to other cities.

SANA news agency reported that three gunmen opened fire at Brig. Gen. Issa al-Khouli Saturday morning as he left his home in the Damascus neighborhood of Rukn-Eddine. Al-Khouli was a doctor and the chief of a military hospital in the capital.

Capt. Ammar al-Wawi of the Free Syrian Army, a rebel group that wants to bring down

the regime by force, denied involvement in the assassination, which came a day after two suicide car bombers struck security compounds in Aleppo.

Such assassinations are not uncommon outside Damascus and army officers have been killed in the past, mostly in the restive provinces of Homs and Idlib.

Violence in other parts of the country left at least 17 people dead as regime troops pushed into rebel-held neighborhoods in the central city of Homs and seized parts of the mountain town of Zabadani, north of Damascus.

The U.N. estimates that 5,400 people have been killed in Syria since the uprising began in March. But that figure is from January, when the world body stopped counting because the chaos in the country has made it all but impossible to check the figures. Hundreds are reported to have been killed since.

Syria's turmoil began with peaceful protests against Assad's rule, sparking the fierce regime crackdown. But it has since grown more militarized as army defectors and armed protesters formed the Free Syrian Army.

After Russia and China last weekend vetoed a Western and Arab attempt at the U.N. to pressure Assad to step down, the FSA's commander said armed force was the only way to oust the president. Western and Arab countries are considering forming a coalition to help Syria's opposition, though so far there is no sign they intend to give direct aid to the FSA.

Arab foreign ministers were to meet in Cairo on Sunday to decide their next step. An Arab League official said the ministers were likely to consider calling for a joint Arab-U.N. team of observers to be sent to Syria to investigate Assad's adherence to past promises to halt the violence.

Surrounding Syria

How the uprisings may impact Syria's relationships with its neighbors:

LEBANON

- Syria troops in Lebanon for 29 years from 1976
- Syria withdrew forces in 2005; retains influence through ties with Hezbollah
- Syria denies role in 2005 killing of Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri

ISRAEL

- Trade, diplomatic contacts almost nonexistent
- Fought wars in 1948, 1967, 1973
- Unsolved territorial dispute over Golan Heights
- 495,000 Palestinian refugees registered in Syria

TURKEY

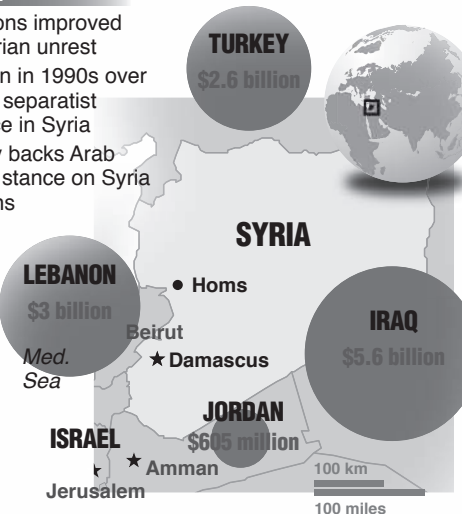
- Relations improved until Syrian unrest
- Tension in 1990s over Kurdish separatist presence in Syria
- Turkey backs Arab League stance on Syria sanctions

IRAQ

- 1-1.4 million Iraqis living in Syria
- Tension over smuggling militants and weapons across border into Iraq
- Ties frozen for a year in 2009 over Baghdad attacks

JORDAN

- Syria vital transport route for essential goods being taken to Jordan
- Tribes rely on cross-border trade
- King Abdullah first Arab leader to say President Assad should step down



NOTE: Trade worth for 2010

Source: ESRI, Reuters, BBC, European Commission

Graphic: Melina Yingling

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WORLD BRIEFS

Iran: 30 million lose email access

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—An Iranian news agency reports that more than 30 million people in the country have lost access to foreign email services such as Gmail, Yahoo mail and Hotmail. The Saturday report by the semiofficial Mehr agency says that the authorities in the national telecommunications company declined to comment on the outage that began Thursday, saying that it had no connection to them. Iran has occasionally restricted the Internet since the turmoil that followed the 2009 elections and blocked websites including Facebook, Twitter, Voice of America and the BBC Farsi service.

Egypt: Tribesmen release Korean tourists in Sinai

AL-ARISH, Egypt (AP)—(AP)—Three South Korean women were freed on Saturday a day after they were kidnapped by armed tribesmen in Egypt's Sinai peninsula when clan elders negotiated their release, a security official said. The head of security in South Sinai Maj. Gen. Mohammed Naguib said that the three women and their Egyptian tour guide were kidnapped on

Friday by tribesmen wanting to pressure Egyptian authorities to release their detained relatives. Naguib said tourists were abducted around 20 miles (30 kilometers) from the sixth-century St. Catherine's Monastery, close to where two Americans were taken last week. In both incidents, tribesmen took some of the passengers from a tour vehicle while leaving others behind.

Bahrain reports: 2 American activists deported

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—Bahrain deported two American women Saturday accused of aiding anti-government activists after entering on tourist visas, officials and activists said. The announcement comes amid escalating tensions ahead of the one-year anniversary of the uprising against the Gulf kingdom's rulers. The two women, identified by Bahraini authorities as Huwaida Arraf and Radhika Sainath, were ordered out of the country after being arrested at a protest in the capital Manama, said Bahrain's Information Affairs Authority. Officials offered no other details about the deportation or the two women.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Tibetan nun sets herself on fire

BEIJING (AP)—An 18-year-old Tibetan nun has set herself on fire in western China in the latest such protest against Beijing's handling of its vast Tibetan regions, an overseas rights group said Sunday. Free Tibet said in a statement that the nun set herself ablaze Saturday and was believed to have survived. The young woman, identified as Tenzin Choezin, was a nun at the Mamae Nunnery in Sichuan province's Aba prefecture, the statement said. Government and police officials reached by telephone in Aba said they knew nothing about the case and hung up.

Official: Roadside bomb kills 5 Afghan policemen

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan government official says five policemen have been killed by a roadside bomb in southern Afghani-

Focus

By SHARON COHEN
AP NATIONAL WRITER

J.R. Childress is up before the sun, bustling about in the French colonial brick house he built. He helps pack his wife's lunch, downs some eggs or cereal for breakfast, pores over online and newspaper job listings and hopes—even prays—this will be the day when his fortunes turn around.

He's determined to stay busy, job or no job, for sanity's sake. Maybe he'll help a neighbor. Exercise. Or check out computer blueprints of construction projects around Winston-Salem, N.C., to stay connected to the world where he thrived for three decades. Childress has been laid off twice since late 2009, most recently for 10 months.

"Every day is a struggle," he says in a soft drawl. "The struggle is the unknown. You've worked your way up the ladder and you get to a point in life and a position in work where you're comfortable ... then all of a sudden everything goes away. It's like being thrown into a hole and you're climbing to get up, but it's greased. There's no way of getting out."

The frustrations of one 53-year-old North Carolina man are multiplied millions of times over across time zones and generations in a country still gripped by economic anxiety, despite increasing signs of recovery. And they resound in a presidential campaign pitting an incumbent defending his economic record against GOP opponents who are attacking it.

Unemployment in January was at its lowest level in three years—8.3 percent—and 1.8 million jobs were added last year, compared with about 1 million in 2010. But there's still a long way to go: There are 5.6 million fewer jobs than there were when the recession began in late 2007.

About 12.8 million people are out of work and what's especially troubling, according to Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, is the large number of long-term unemployed—more than 40 percent have been jobless more than six months.

The long-term unemployed don't fit into any neat category. They're young and old. They have high school diplomas and master's degrees. Some become so discouraged, they stop looking for a time or become mid-life college students. Others find temporary jobs, then return to the jobless rolls for long stretches. In 2011, the average length of being out of work was 39 weeks—about nine months.

But statistics tell only part of the story. They don't gauge the despair of a thirtysomething office manager who has stopped counting how many

resumes he's sent out. Or the apprehension of a 60-ish tool-and-die maker who lost his job, returned to school, but still can't find work—and doubts he ever will again.

Or the rejection J.R. Childress feels, declaring that unemployment "makes you feel you're not a part of society because you're not earning your way."

Childress started working after high school, first in factories, then in construction, eventually earning a six-figure salary as vice president of operations at a company.

In October 2009, he was laid off when road construction and building projects came to a near halt. After a year without work, Childress took a huge pay cut to be a construction foreman, but that job ended last April. He's convinced he has two strikes against him: his age and lack of college degree.

"I'm putting out resumes, but they're going into a black hole," he says. Prospective employees, he says "want 33, not 53. ... They say, 'We really like you, but if we spend our time training you, when construction comes back, you're going to leave.'" He pauses, and adds: "That's not paying my bills."

Childress' wife works and their 24-year-old twins are out of college so that eases their financial burden, but he says he asks himself: "Am I going to be 75 or 80 and not be able to retire? ... What did I do to deserve this? When is it going to turn around for me?"

Jerome Greene doesn't mince words when he describes life without a steady paycheck for more than three years.

"It's been like hell," he says. "It's very hard to see people leave and go to work in the morning and come home every night. It's hard to see people spending money, going out and having fun and you can't. It's very stressing. But there are people in worst situations than I have and I feel sorry for them."

Greene, about to turn 50, worked for 16 years as an Oracle software developer, most recently at a Pennsylvania company that made electronic components for cars. When he was laid off in June 2008, the recession was just taking hold, and he still had job interviews. By fall, with the economy in free fall, his phone stopped ringing.

Greene hoped the downturn would be brief and he'd weather it with unemployment benefits.

But the jobless rate hovered above 9 percent and Greene's 99 weeks of unemployment expired. He had trouble sleeping. Depression set in. With-



In this Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2012 photo, Jon Creek pets his dogs Harley, left, and Memphis while studying for a graduate school admissions test at his home in Mason, Ohio.

Faces beyond the numbers of long-term unemployed

out health insurance, he took precautions—carrying hand sanitizer and his own pen when doing errands to avoid getting sick and having to pay \$65 for a doctor's visit.

"There's no room for error," he says. "There's no extra money."

At the same time, Greene, who is single and lives outside of Pottstown, Pa., has become an active social networker, online and in person. He participates in several groups, looking for job tips, sometimes doing presentations himself, perfect-

to take charge of managing their careers. They should prepare for the next round of layoffs ... The rest of the world is beginning to catch up with the U.S. Companies are going to continue to outsource, they're going to continue to do stupid things ... and I don't think recessions are ever going to go away. Having a job just interrupts a job search."

The memory stings even now for Jon Creek, all these years after the job interview.

He'd applied to be a bookkeeper at a property management company when one of the

owners caught him off guard: "He said, 'You've been out of work for a year now. You can only clean the garage so many times. Why

can't you get a job?'" Creek recalls.

"My answer was, 'I'm trying to get a job now,'" he says.

Creek, who lives in Mason, a suburb of Cincinnati, was a construction company office manager until he and almost everyone else at the firm were laid off in December 2007. He'd known the business was in trouble and says he actually turned down another better-paying job earlier, out of loyalty.

It took 18 months to land part-time work as an insurance agent's assistant at \$240 a week—a dollar less than his unemployment checks.

A year later, Creek was stunned when a certified letter arrived with his final paycheck and notice that his job was over. Again, it was the

economy. To add to the injury, his boss had posted the news on her Facebook page before telling him. "Everybody knew but me," he says.

And since she hadn't done the proper paperwork, he couldn't file for unemployment.

That was August 2010. Creek—who holds a bachelor's degree in business administration—has been looking since, worried that as time passes, someone unemployed for, say, six months may seem more appealing.

"I worked hard. I did everything right," he says. "Now I'm at the point of asking myself, 'Will I ever be able to get anything?' It's not just about a salary. It's about being able to go out and say, 'I do this. This is my identity.'"

On occasion, Creek, now 35, has become so discouraged, he's temporarily quit looking. "If you send out your resume so many times, every employer in the city has it," he says. "If you take it out of the mix for a while, perhaps you'll get noticed next time."

Being unemployed not only hurts financially—Creek has an \$11,000-plus student loan—it leaves emotional scars, too. "The only people I talk to during the day are my wife, my dogs and service people," he says. "It's very isolating, very lonely."

His wife, Leslie, a financial analyst, is a constant comfort. "She tells me I'm smart, that I have a lot to offer," he says.

Creek is considering returning to school this fall to get a master's degree in accounting.

"Sometimes you feel like playing the victim card," he says, "but you really don't want

to. It tells the employer you're not very confident. I tell myself good things are to come ... but it's hard to remain hopeful."

Jean Coyle knows it's ironic that long ago, she taught college classes about retirement planning.

As a tenured professor at universities in Illinois and New Mexico, she lectured on gerontology, age discrimination and women's issues. When she was 52, she made a life-changing move, entering the seminary and leaving with two masters' degrees. In 2002, she was ordained as a Presbyterian minister.

As an associate pastor at a Presbyterian church in Washington, D.C., Coyle did crisis work, visiting homes and hospitals, counseling and preaching, conducting funerals. She expected a long career but in 2007, she lost her job in a church budget cut.

At 62, Coyle—who holds five degrees—thought she had much to offer. She applied to hundreds of churches and organizations around the country.

"I don't know if I was really naive or not, idealistic or not," she says. "I just believed I was supposed to be doing this and something would happen. There would be an opportunity."

She hoped her past dealing with the sick and dying would prove especially valuable. "I think you might find a 26-year-old seminary graduate with that experience but not often," she says. "Churches say, 'We want someone who's going to be there 20 years.'"

Coyle found a temporary staff job with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) but after three years of looking for a pastoral position, she reluctantly retired in 2010.

"I'm literally sitting in the midst of job search files that I'm finally throwing away," she says, from her home in Washington's Virginia suburbs. "I know I'm never going to be interviewed again. This is a major thing for me. It's hard to say. I'm a type-A person. I love working. I want to work until I drop and collapse at my desk. That wasn't meant to be. It's very painful, very difficult. ... The positive part is to be able to say I'm retired rather than I'm unemployed. But people often turn away and say, 'Oh you're retired.' You feel discarded. You feel invisible."

Coyle stays busy by filling in for pastors when they're on vacation or ill and participates in 13 volunteer activities—everything from pet therapy to neighborhood watch to usher at a college theater.

"I always used to tell my gerontology students," she says, "that the saddest thing in the world is to have the answers and no one is asking you the questions anymore."

If you can't find a job, maybe you've got to go out and create one. ... There's always something ahead. You just have to reach out for it.

Health & Fitness

Study finds MDs not always honest with patients

WASHINGTON (AP)—Trust your doctor? A survey finds that some doctors aren't always completely honest with their patients.

More than half admitted describing someone's prognosis in a way they knew was too rosy. Nearly 20 percent said they hadn't fully disclosed a medical mistake for fear of being sued. And 1 in 10 of those

surveyed said they'd told a patient something that wasn't true in the past year.

The survey, by Massachusetts researchers and published in this month's *Health Affairs*, doesn't explain why, or what wasn't true.

"I don't think that physicians set out to be dishonest," said lead researcher Dr. Lisa

Iezzoni, a Harvard Medical School professor and director of Massachusetts General Hospital's Mongan Institute for Health Policy. She said the untruths could have been to give people hope.

But it takes open communication for patients to make fully informed decisions about their health care, as opposed to

the "doctor-knows-best" paternalism of medicine's past, Iezzoni added.

The survey offers "a reason for patients to be vigilant and to be very clear with their physician about how much they do want to know," she said.

The findings come from a 2009 survey of more than 1,800 physicians nationwide to see

if they agree with and follow certain standards medical professionalism issued in 2002. Among the voluntary standards are that doctors should be open and honest about all aspects of patient care, and promptly disclose any mistakes.

A third of those surveyed didn't completely agree that doctors should 'fess up about mistakes. That's even though a growing number of medical centers are adopting policies that tell doctors to say "I'm sorry" up front, in part because studies have found patients less likely to sue when that happens.

Not revealing a mistake is "just inexcusable," said Dr. Arthur Caplan, a prominent medical ethicist at the University of Pennsylvania. Beyond decency, "your care now has to be different because of what happened."

The vast majority of those surveyed agreed that physicians should fully inform patients of the risks, not just the benefits, of treatment options and never tell a patient something that isn't true—even though some admitted they hadn't followed that advice at least on rare occasions in the past year.

Perhaps least surprising is that doctors give overly positive prognoses. It's hard to deliver bad news, especially when a patient has run out of options,

and until recently doctors have had little training in how to do so. But Iezzoni said patients with the worst outlook especially deserve to know, so they can get their affairs in order, and patient studies have found most want to know.

What else might doctors not tell? There are shades of gray, said Caplan, the ethicist. For example, he's heard doctors agonize over what to tell parents about a very premature baby's chances, knowing the odds are really bad but also knowing they've seen miracles.

Doctors prescribe placebos sometimes, and telling the patient could negate chances of the fake treatment helping, he noted. Sometimes they exaggerate a health finding to shock the patient into shaping up.

And sometimes it's a matter of dribbling out a hard truth to give patients a chance to adjust, Caplan said: "OK, this looks serious but we're going to order some more tests," when the doctor already knows just how grim things are.

Withholding the full story is getting harder, though, Iezzoni said. Not only do more patients Google their conditions so they know what to ask, but some doctors who have embraced electronic medical records allow patients to log in and check their own test results.

For pregnant women with cancer, chemo possible

LONDON (AP)—Researchers have encouraging news for women who find themselves in a very frightening situation: having cancer while pregnant. Studies suggest that these women can be treated almost the same as other cancer patients are, with minimal risk to the fetus.

Only about 1 in 1,000 pregnant women face this dilemma, but doctors fear that more will because the risk of cancer rises with age, and more women are delaying having children until they're older.

Doctors have long worried about how to balance treating a pregnant woman with cancer and the need to protect her fetus from the effects of toxic cancer drugs and radiation treatments, and whether it is safe to continue a pregnancy in certain situations. A series of papers in the journals *Lancet* and *Lancet Oncology* published Friday make several key contributions:

- A Belgian-led study of 70 children in Europe exposed to chemotherapy while they were in the womb found they developed just as well as other children, according to tests on their hearts, IQ and general health. They were assessed at birth, 18 months, and every few years until age 18.

- Chemotherapy after the first trimester is possible, using extra ultrasounds to ensure the baby is developing properly. Radiation therapy is best done in the first two trimesters, when the baby is small enough to be covered with a lead blanket, according to a review of previous studies, led by Belgian researchers.

- Ending the pregnancy doesn't improve chances for the mother, the same study found.

- The type of cancer seems to matter: An Israeli analysis of past research suggested pregnant women with blood cancers might want to terminate an early pregnancy when chemotherapy can't be delayed.

- Another review of previous studies by French and American researchers concluded doctors should aim to preserve pregnancy in women with cervical or ovarian cancers where possible.

"Many (doctors) aren't keen to give chemotherapy to pregnant women and may even recommend termination," said Dr. Frederic Amant of the Leuven Cancer Institute in Belgium, an author of two of the papers. "But treating a pregnant woman with cancer doesn't have to be so different from treating a cancer patient who isn't pregnant."

Amant, who led the study of 70 children, said most of the children with cognitive problems were born premature, and that was probably the primary cause of their delayed development.

"Doctors will often err on the side of caution and deliver a baby early to avoid the effects of chemotherapy," said Dr. Catherine Nelson-Piercy, an obstetric physician and spokeswoman for Britain's



In this Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012 photo, Caroline Swain poses for photographs with her sons Max, left, 10, and Luke, 9, at their home in Rayleigh, England.

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

"These data don't say that chemotherapy is completely safe, but the baby is better off being in (the mother) as long as possible," she said. Nelson-Piercy was not linked to the *Lancet* series and often works with pregnant women diagnosed with cancer or other illnesses.

Dr. Richard Theriault, a professor of medicine at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Texas, said he hoped the papers would change how doctors treat pregnant cancer patients.

"Terminating a pregnancy is not always necessary," said Theriault, who heads a program to treat pregnant women with cancer. He said a minority of pregnant women with cancer still get abortions.

He said the placenta seems to act as a kind of filter for chemotherapy drugs, restricting their effects on the fetus. "There's the phenomenon of the bald mother who gives birth to a baby with a full head of

hair," he said. "It seems to suggest not as much gets to the baby as we thought."

That was certainly Caroline Swain's experience, who was diagnosed with breast cancer while pregnant with her second son. She had her left breast and many lymph nodes removed and had to wait until her fetus was 12 weeks old before starting chemotherapy.

"I was just so grateful it was possible to have treatment and keep my baby," said Swain, 45, who lives near London. "I was scared that my child wouldn't remember me if something happened to me."

Her son Luke, now 9, weighed in at 7.4 pounds (3.35 kilograms) when he was born, only slightly lighter than his older brother Max a year earlier.

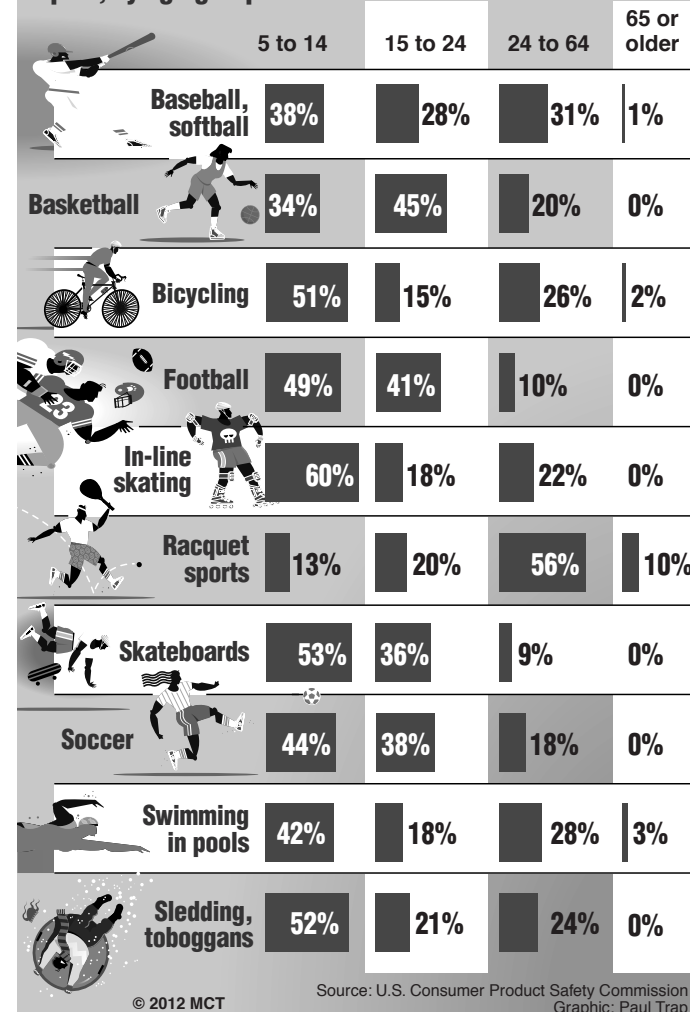
"We had celebrations all around when Luke came out absolutely fine," Swain said of her and her husband Rowland's relief at the birth. "Luke is no different from his brother," she said. "They both love Legos and X-Box."

Personal Trainer

Age and exercise injuries

Some sports injuries are more common in young people and some are a bigger problem for adults.

Percent of U.S. injuries for each sport, by age group



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Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Graphic: Paul Trap

Life & Style

Whitney Houston, superstar of records, films, dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Whitney Houston, who ruled as pop music's queen until her majestic voice and regal image were ravaged by drug use, erratic behavior and a tumultuous marriage to singer Bobby Brown, died Saturday. She was 48.

Beverly Hills police Lt. Mark Rosen told reporters outside the Beverly Hilton that Houston was pronounced dead at 3:55 p.m. in her room on the fourth floor of the hotel. Her body remained there and Beverly Hills detectives were investigating.

"There were no obvious signs of any criminal intent," Rosen said.

Houston's publicist, Kristen Foster, said the cause of death was unknown.

Rosen said police received a 911 call from hotel security about Houston at 3:43 p.m. Saturday. Paramedics who were already at the hotel because of a Grammy party unsuccessfully tried to resuscitate the singer, he said.

Houston's end came on the eve of music's biggest night—the Grammy Awards. It's a showcase where she once reigned, and her death was sure to cast a heavy pall on Sunday's ceremony.

Her longtime mentor Clive Davis was to hold his annual concert and dinner Saturday, and a representative of the show said it would proceed.

Producer Jimmy Jam, who had worked with Houston, said he anticipated the evening would become a tribute to her, and he expected there to be one at the Grammys as well.

Houston was supposed to ap-

pear at the gala, and Davis had told The Associated Press that she would perhaps perform: "It's her favorite night of the year ... (so) who knows by the end of the evening," he said.

Houston had been at rehearsals for the show Thursday, coaching singers Brandy and Monica, according to a person who was at the event but was not authorized to speak publicly about it. The person said Houston looked disheveled, was sweating profusely and liquor and cigarettes could be smelled on her breath.

Two days ago, she performed at a pre-Grammy party with singer Kelly Price.

"I just can't talk about it now," Houston's godmother, Aretha Franklin, said in a short

statement. "It's so stunning and unbelievable. I couldn't believe what I was reading coming across the TV screen."

The Rev. Al Sharpton said he would call for a national prayer Sunday morning during a service at Second Baptist Church in Los Angeles.

"The morning of the Grammys, the world should pause and pray for the memory of a gifted songbird," Sharpton said in a written statement.

In a statement, Recording Academy President and CEO Neil Portnow said Houston "was one of the world's greatest pop singers of all time who leaves behind a robust musical soundtrack spanning the past three decades."

"Her powerful voice graced

many memorable and award-winning songs," Portnow said. "A light has been dimmed in our music community today, and we extend our deepest condolences to her family, friends, fans and all who have been touched by her beautiful voice."

At her peak, Houston was the golden girl of the music industry. From the middle 1980s to the late 1990s, she was one of the world's best-selling artists. She wowed audiences with effortless, powerful, and peerless vocals that were rooted in the black church but made palatable to the masses with a pop sheen.

Her success carried her beyond music to movies, where she starred in hits like "The Bodyguard" and "Waiting to Exhale."

She had the perfect voice and the perfect image: a gorgeous singer who had sex appeal but was never overtly sexual, who maintained perfect poise.

She influenced a generation of

younger singers, from Christina Aguilera to Mariah Carey, who when she first came out sounded so much like Houston that many thought it was Houston.

See **WHITNEY** on Next Page

Whitney Houston's voice will never be forgotten

By DAVID BAUDER
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Whitney Houston's downfall was so long and sad that, in an impatient public's mind, it overshadowed her many accomplishments. Those achievements can be checked off easily in numbers—Grammy Awards, records sold, the string of seven consecutive No. 1 singles. Yet if there's any solace to her passing, it is that people will revisit recordings, videos and films to rediscover the majesty of her work.

Look up the video for one of those hits, "I Wanna Dance With Somebody (Who Loves Me)." The arrangement and instrumentation—cheesy synthesizers, booming drums—date the recording immediately in the late 1980s.

It's a pop confection that could have been sung by any singer who might have been forgotten in a couple of years. Houston lifted it above the average with a voice that could just as easily be found on a gospel record or opera stage. She danced through it with a bearing that made you think of Michael Jordan stopping off at a schoolyard basketball game, knowing that she had far more talent than anyone around her.

The daughter of Cissy Houston and cousin of Dionne Warwick, Houston had talent that surpassed each of them. Her godmother was Aretha Franklin—how's that for pressure?—but in her prime, Houston's voice could match the Queen of Soul's.

"Didn't We Almost Have It All" and "How Will I Know" were other standouts, evidence that Houston could master balladry and up-tempo songs. She was one of longtime music executive Clive Davis' greatest signings, and although Davis may not have challenged Houston enough, he at least put her in position to shine.

Anyone who saw Houston perform "The Star Spangled Banner" before the 1991 Super Bowl will always remember it.

The 1992 film "The Bodyguard" and its soundtrack will remain her signature achievement. She portrayed a superstar singer, alternatively tough and vulnerable, guarded by a former Secret Service agent played by Kevin Costner. For the soundtrack, she took a little-known Dolly Parton song, "I Will Always Love You," and made it her own. And then some.

Again, there are the kudos—it won the Grammy Award for record of the year. The performance itself was remarkable. Houston's voice soared with the power of a jet engine and kept perfect tone for the quieter, tender moments. Every artist has a defining song; if they're lucky, it also shows the peak of their powers.

The hits didn't dry up immediately, but they became less frequent. Her marriage to singer Bobby Brown was ill-fated and she descended into drug abuse.

In September 1997, I had an interview scheduled with Houston as she was promoting a concert being televised on HBO. It was by phone, but the appointed hour of her call came and went. No Houston.

The next day a huge floral arrangement was delivered to The Associated Press office addressed to me with a note of apology attributed to Houston. When the interview was rescheduled, I thanked her for the arrangement and said it wasn't necessary. She had no idea what I was talking about.

One suspects there were many years and many other examples of instances like that, of covering Houston's tracks as she became increasingly unreliable. The years of abuse took a terrible toll on her talent. She made a comeback in 2009 with a "Good Morning America" concert that was sad to watch. She went through the motions and played hard to the crowd, but her voice could no longer hit the notes that once seemed effortless.

During that 1997 interview, Houston deflected talk about a life and marriage that was already clearly troubled.

"I didn't get in the business to talk about my personal life," she said then. "I got in the business to sing, to try to make music and to try to make people happy...if I can."

"My life doesn't go on record. My voice does."

It is the only thing to be thankful for with this sad story.



In this Sunday, Nov. 22, 2009, file photo, Artist Whitney Houston performs onstage at the 37th Annual American Music Awards in Los Angeles.

Reactions to Whitney Houston's death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A collection of reactions to Whitney Houston's death Saturday in Beverly Hills at age 48.

■ "First of all, I want to tell you that I love you all. Second, I would like to say, I love you Whitney. The hardest thing for me to do is to come on this stage."—Houston's ex-husband Bobby Brown, performing a show in Southaven, Miss., hours after her death.

■ "I am devastated by the loss of Whitney. We have lost a true angel. My prayers, my heart goes out to her family. We have lost an extraordinary voice to the world."—singer Lionel Richie.

■ Mine is only one of the millions of hearts broken over the death of Whitney Houston. I will always be grateful and in awe of the wonderful performance she did on my song and I can truly say from the bottom of my heart, 'Whitney, I will always love you. You will be missed.—Dolly Parton, who

wrote the original version of "I Will Always Love you," which Houston later sang for the film "The Bodyguard."

■ "Heartbroken and in tears over the shocking death of my friend, the incomparable Ms. Whitney Houston. She will never be forgotten as one of the greatest voices to ever grace the earth."—Mariah Carey, in messages posted on Twitter.

■ "A light has been dimmed in our music community today, and we extend our deepest condolences to her family, friends, fans and all who have been touched by her beautiful voice."—Neil Portnow, president and CEO of the Recording Academy.

■ "I truly, truly adored Whitney Houston. Her album 'I'm Your Baby Tonight' was the very first album I ever bought."—Michelle Williams of Destiny's Child.

■ "I can't believe that Whitney is gone. My heart goes out to her family, to Clive (Davis), and to

everyone who knew and loved this amazingly talented and beautiful artist. I will always love her."—Barry Manilow.

■ "Without a doubt, her voice, for me, and for the world, was the gold standard. She had it all, she broke all barriers."—Tommy Mottola, former chairman and CEO of Sony Music Entertainment

■ "Whitney Houston was the greatest singer I've ever heard and she will be truly missed."—Tony Bennett in a post on Twitter.

■ "The morning of the Grammys, the world should pause and pray for the memory of a gifted songbird."—Rev. Al Sharpton, who called for a national prayer to honor Houston and support her family.

■ "I've known Whitney since she was a little girl and I loved her. She was like family to me. I will miss her."—Smokey Robinson.

■ "Whitney was the reason many of us do what we do."—

Pink, in Twitter post.

■ "At the apex of her career, Whitney had no peer, with a voice that shaped a generation. She has left behind a musical and film legacy that will endure.... she will be sorely missed by us all."—Bishop T.D. Jakes, producer of Houston's final film project, a remake of the movie "Sparkle."

■ "I think her contribution was her excellence of all levels. She was outstandingly gorgeous, an excellent performer ... Excellent vocalist. She was excellent on some many levels, and set the standard for what it is to be a great female artist."—India.Arie.

■ "She blessed us with so much greatness in songs that we can never ever forget her."—Producer Rodney "Darkchild" Jerkins, who worked with Houston.

■ "Her music inspired millions and the power of her voice was hard to match in its depth and crystalline beauty."—Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who knew Houston.

Jolie: nervous, excited about premiere in Bosnia

BERLIN (AP)—Angelina Jolie says she's nervous and excited about the upcoming premiere in Sarajevo of her Bosnian war movie "In the Land of Blood and Honey."

The film, which is showing at the Berlin International Film Festival on Saturday, is set to make its full debut in the Bosnian capital on Feb. 14, though it already has been shown to some groups there.

Already released in the U.S., Jolie's directorial debut is a drama about a Serb soldier who finds his ex-lover, a Muslim Bosnian woman, among sex slaves in a camp.

"I'm nervous and I'm excited," Jolie said of the Bosnian premiere. "I'll probably cry through the entire thing."

"I'll be very, very moved because, of course, a lot of the

In this photo made available Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012 US actress Angelina Jolie smiles during a meeting with German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle, not seen, in Berlin, Germany, Friday, Feb. 10, 2012.

people coming are the victims of war so it's going to be heavy," she added.

Jolie, 36, said that "it didn't take much for me to be driven" while directing the film, noting that her cast lived through the 1992-95 war in Bosnia.

Actress Vanesa Glodjo, she said, crossed Sarajevo's "Sniper Alley"—named after the heavy fire by sharpshooters that made it notoriously dangerous—daily to get to her theater school.

"Art meant that much to her that she risked her life every day," Jolie said. "The privilege



you feel to have the opportunity to work with such a dedicated and such an extraordinary human being made it all ... just wonderful."

Glodjo said that Jolie "gave me the words and opportunity to express what I lived during the war."

Jolie's film is showing outside the main competition at the Berlin festival.

The film has triggered outrage among Serbs although it has yet to be premiered in Serbia and the Serb-controlled parts of Bosnia. Authorities rejected a request by some Serb war veterans' organizations to ban the film because of alleged anti-Serb bias.

Jolie stressed during a press conference at the festival Saturday that "this is not a documentary ... it's an artistic interpretation."

"I tried to bring as much as I could but there are many different sides to war, many different sides to this war," she said.

"This was this particular story, but there are many different stories to be told in this war and many different ways to tell the story of this war."

Norwegians seek A-ha! moment in North Korean music

OSLO, Norway (AP)—It's not the face of North Korea the world is used to: five young musicians adding a playful twist to one of the most popular Western pop songs of the 1980s.

On Saturday, an accordion quintet that gained unexpected YouTube fame with their cover of A-ha's megahit "Take on Me" performed the song live at an arts festival in Kirkenes, on Norway's Arctic border with Russia.

"For many it is a revelation that North Koreans open up and

play Western pop music with such great joy," said Norwegian artist Morten Traavik, who recorded the video during a visit to the Kum Song school of music in Pyongyang in December. It has since been viewed more than 1 million times on YouTube.

The ensemble accepted his invitation to come to Norway, and their chords formed the musical backdrop Saturday as 250 Norwegian border guards holding colored flipboards tried to create a small-scale version of the giant human

mosaics performed at North Korean mass games.

It was choreographed by two North Korean directors, but instead of the patriotic motifs typical to those events, the display in Kirkenes featured local images, such as polar bears and reindeer herders, Traavik said.

It's part of an art project that he's labeled "The Promised Land."

"My idea is to challenge our perceptions of North Koreans, which is extremely negative and stigmatized," he said. "I

have a lot of good friends in North Korea. Like other people, they are proud of their country and nature. They are among the friendliest people I have gotten to know."

However, he said North Koreans are marked by a "siege" mentality, from being cut off from the rest of the world by their own authoritarian regime.

"It is important that they experience a very positive response during their visit here," he said. "That they feel welcomed and taken care of."

WHITNEY

From Page 20

But by the end of her career, Houston became a stunning cautionary tale of the toll of drug use. Her album sales plummeted and the hits stopped coming; her once serene image was shattered by a wild demeanor and bizarre public appearances. She confessed to abusing cocaine, marijuana and pills, and her once pristine voice became raspy and hoarse, unable to hit the high notes as she had during her prime.

"The biggest devil is me. I'm either my best friend or my worst enemy," Houston told ABC's Diane Sawyer in an infamous 2002 interview with then-husband Brown by her side.

It was a tragic fall for a superstar who was one of the top-selling artists in pop music history, with more than 55 million records sold in the United States alone.

She seemed to be born into greatness. In addition to being Franklin's goddaughter, she was the daughter of gospel singer Cissy Houston and the cousin of 1960s pop diva Dionne Warwick.

Houston first started singing in the church as a child. In her teens, she sang backup for Chaka Khan, Jermaine Jackson and others, in addition to modeling. It was around that time when music mogul Clive Davis first

heard Houston perform.

"The time that I first saw her singing in her mother's act in a club ... it was such a stunning impact," Davis told "Good Morning America."

"To hear this young girl breathe such fire into this song. I mean, it really sent the proverbial tingles up my spine," he added.

Before long, the rest of the country would feel it, too. Houston made her album debut in 1985 with "Whitney Houston," which sold millions and spawned hit after hit. "Saving All My Love for You" brought her her first Grammy, for best female pop vocal. "How Will I Know," "You Give Good Love" and "The Greatest Love of All" also became hit singles.

Another multiplatinum album, "Whitney," came out in 1987 and included hits like "Where Do Broken Hearts Go" and "I Wanna Dance With Somebody."

The New York Times wrote that Houston "possesses one of her generation's most powerful gospel-trained voices, but she eschews many of the churchier mannerisms of her forerunners. She uses ornamental gospel phrasing only sparingly, and instead of projecting an earthy, tearful vulnerability, communicates cool self-assurance and strength, building pop ballads to majestic, sustained peaks of intensity."

Her decision not to follow the

more soulful inflections of singers like Franklin drew criticism by some who saw her as playing down her black roots to go pop and reach white audiences. The criticism would become a constant refrain through much of her career. She was even booed during the "Soul Train Awards" in 1989.

"Sometimes it gets down to that, you know?" she told Katie Couric in 1996. "You're not black enough for them. I don't know. You're not R&B enough. You're very pop. The white audience has taken you away from them."

Some saw her 1992 marriage to former New Edition member and soul crooner Bobby Brown as an attempt to refute those critics. It seemed to be an odd union; she was seen as pop's pure princess while he had a bad-boy image, and already had children of his own. (The couple had a daughter, Bobbi Kristina, in 1993.) Over the years, he would be arrested several times, on charges ranging from DUI to failure to pay child support.

But Houston said their true personalities were not as far apart as people may have believed.

"When you love, you love. I mean, do you stop loving somebody because you have different images? You know, Bobby and I basically come from the same place," she told Rolling Stone in 1993. "You see somebody, and you deal with their

image, that's their image. It's part of them, it's not the whole picture. I am not always in a sequined gown. I am nobody's angel. I can get down and dirty. I can get raunchy."

Brown was scheduled to perform Saturday evening as part of the New Edition reunion tour at the Landers Center in Southaven, Miss., just south of Memphis, Tenn.

Landers Center executive director Todd Mastry said Brown was planning to perform as scheduled, but wouldn't be available to talk with the media. It would take several years for the public to see the "down and dirty" side of Houston. Her moving 1991 rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" at the Super Bowl, amid the first Gulf War, set a new standard and once again reaffirmed her as America's sweetheart.

In 1992, she became a star in the acting world with "The Bodyguard." Despite mixed reviews, the story of a singer (Houston) guarded by a former Secret Service agent (Kevin Costner) was an international success.

It also gave her perhaps her most memorable hit: a searing, stunning rendition of Dolly Parton's "I Will Always Love You," which sat atop the charts for weeks. It was Grammy's record of the year and best female pop vocal, and the "Bodyguard" soundtrack was named album of the year.

Couple's attempt at dating is falling short of the mark

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I have been divorced for two years and am friendly with a man, "Byron," whose friendship I value. A few weeks ago we decided to explore a dating relationship. Unfortunately, the past couple of weeks have been busy for me. We haven't been able to spend as much time together as either of us would like.

Last night Byron texted me, saying he "knew where this was going" and thought we should "talk about it." He subsequently said he thinks I wasn't being honest about wanting to spend time together.

When I reassured him, he explained that he has abandonment issues. Now I feel I must be careful not to do anything that might cause him to panic.

Should I back off now and try to salvage the friendship, or should I give the romance a chance? His paranoid actions so early into this stage of our relationship have made me uncomfortable. It's as if he's asking for a guarantee already.

UNEASY IN SOUTH DAKOTA

DEAR UNEASY: I don't blame you for having second thoughts. Byron appears to be someone who also has trust issues, and that he would tell you he thinks you haven't been honest with him is cause for concern. You have been friendly for some time; therefore, he should have assessed your character before this. Back off, because the only person who can resolve his insecurities is Byron. Your instincts are correct.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law recently moved into our home to escape a bad relationship. While I'm happy to have her, increasingly I want to send her packing.

She constantly "baby talks," whether in the house or, God forbid, out in public. It drives me nuts. I sometimes wonder if she needs a knock upside the head for a "reboot."

My wife agrees it's annoying and needs to stop. But how do you tell a well-educated, mature adult that she sounds like an idiot and it's embarrassing to be with her in public? Sometimes her mannerisms even resemble those of a toddler.

GOO-GOO-GOING CRAZY IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR CRAZY: Has your mother-in-law always been like this? If the answer is yes, then she thinks her behavior is "cute" because she has gotten away with it for so many years and now does it unconsciously. If the answer is no, then perhaps it's time to have her evaluated.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: You often suggest volunteer work as a way of combating loneliness or boredom. Research has shown that volunteering has health benefits as well as social benefits. In addition to the pride, satisfaction and accomplishment for the individuals involved, volunteer work also strengthens communities. That's why I hope you will support Project Linus by telling your readers about its national Make a Blanket Day on Saturday, Feb. 18.

On that day volunteers across the country will be making quilts, blankets and afghans that will be donated to children ages 0-18 who are experiencing stressful situations such as hospitalizations, natural disasters, foster care and homelessness.

No sewing skills are required. Volunteers can help if they can thread a needle, cut with scissors and tie a knot. Thank you, Abby, for sharing the information about this worthwhile project with your many readers.

KAREN IN SNOHOMISH, WASH.

DEAR KAREN: I'm pleased to help spread the word. Dear Abby readers are the kindest, most generous people in the world. Those who are interested in obtaining more information, or locating a local chapter that will be sponsoring a work party on Feb. 18, should visit www.projectlinus.org.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

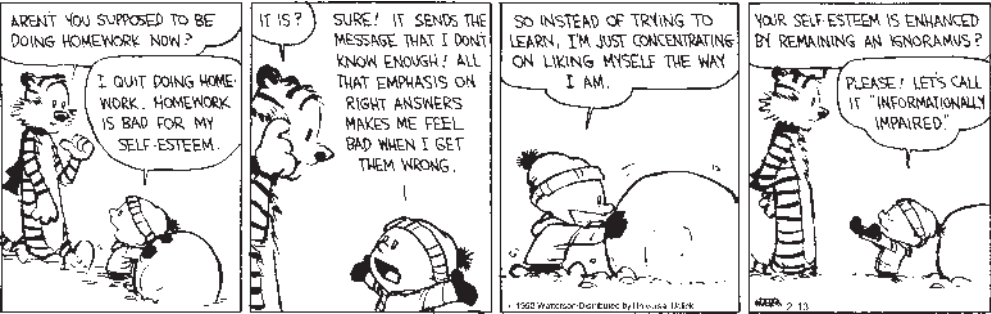
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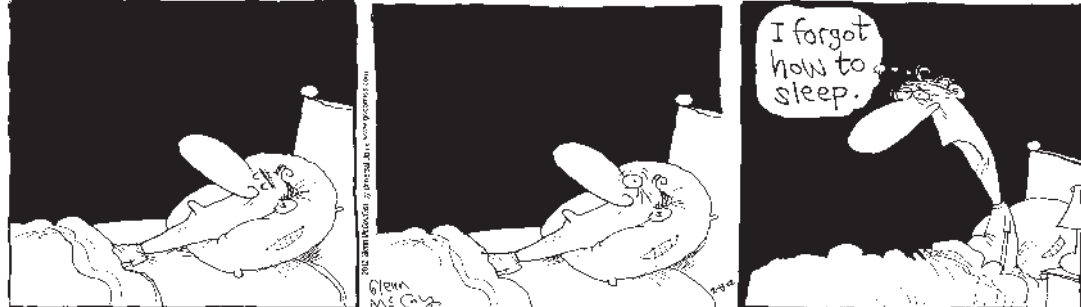
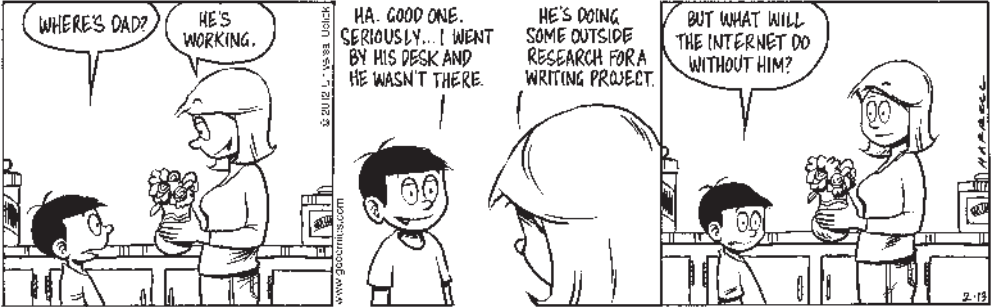


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Stitches

5 Corn spike

8 React in horror

12 Handel's "Messiah," e.g.

14 Aware of

15 Algonquian leader

16 Individuals

17 "Of course"

18 Cancel out

20 Poe's bird

23 "Beetle Bailey" dog

24 On in years

25 Luzon language

28 Neither mate

29 Commandments bearer

30 Sheep's comment

32 First person to orbit the Earth

34 Gear teeth

35 Hits head-on

36 Cause, as havoc

37 Government in power

40 Cry of discovery

41 "American —"

42 "Madame Butterfly" setting

47 Lass

48 Shook in fear

49 Eyelid woe

50 Witness

51 Longings

2 Historic period

3 Joker

4 Remained

5 Cupid's alias

6 Melody

7 X-ray discoverer

8 Giant number

9 "— Karenina"

10 Undo a dele

11 Sit for a picture

13 Portent

19 Greek vowels

20 Skedad-dled

21 Awe-struck

22 Miles of Hollywood

23 Refuge

25 Persecutes

26 Reed instrument

27 Pop singer

29 Sir's partner

31 Request

33 Ornamental grating on a car

34 "White Christmas" crooner

36 "Kapow!"

37 Fixes illicitly

38 Rewrite, maybe

39 Blood-curdling

40 Curved molding

43 Exist

44 Brewery product

45 Barbie's companion

46 Egos' counterparts

Solution time: 24 mins.

SATURDAY'S ANSWER 2-13

1 SIP 2 CAGE 3 ESS 4 WORE 5 AGUE 6 DOC 7 AWOL 8 DESK 9 ISO 10 GAFF 11 EST 12 STOW 13 SET 14 AWE 15 SANTAS 16 VOLUME 17 OKAYS 18 OFFAL 19 TABLES 20 RETOOK 21 ELM 22 ERA 23 HELD 24 USA 25 UNDO 26 IVY 27 EDAM 28 GOOP 29 GEE 30 OGRE 31 HIDE 32 HRS 33 NEAR 34 TROD

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mena Suvari, 33; Kelly Hu, 44; Peter Gabriel, 62; Stockard Channing, 68.

Happy Birthday: Set goals. You will have the discipline to bring about your own good fortune. Use your intuitive insight and methodical mind to navigate through any challenges or obstacles you face. This is a year of progress, making it vital to keep your productivity at an all-time high. Make simplicity and moderation your starting point. Your numbers are 6, 9, 13, 20, 29, 34, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let uncertainty be your nemesis. Size up both personal and professional partnerships and make a choice to go it alone or collaborate. Walk away from anyone using unfair power plays. Discipline and diplomacy will lead to success. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll find it difficult to stick to your plans. Your need to elaborate and turn everything into a big ordeal will hold you back. Taking small, secure steps will ensure that you reach your destination successfully. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll upstage someone if you chat too much or push your methods on your peers, colleagues or clients. Step back and consider the best way to proceed if you are dealing with others. Getting along will be half the battle. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't allow unpredictable actions to send you spinning in an unsuitable direction. Stand firm without deviating from your plans and you

will impress someone you consider special or who you want to do business with in the future. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Work at self-improvement and feeling good about the way you look and what you have to offer. Specialize in a service that allows you to use your skills in unusual ways. Don't allow anyone to alter your plans by using emotional blackmail. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your enthusiasm will encourage others to join in and help you reach your goals. Opportunities are apparent, and communicating and expanding your original plans will bring a bigger return and greater satisfaction. You'll learn and advance quickly. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Avoid impulsive moves that can alter your personal or professional status. Play out any scenario you encounter with slow, methodical steps that will allow you the maneuverability to change your mind at your own discretion. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Showing emotion can be a good thing. Discuss your feelings so you can clear up the clutter in your personal life due to misinterpretation. If you don't share, you can't expect others to know what's wrong or how to fix it. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It's payback time. If you want to help an organization or someone who needs assistance, now is the time to do so, but don't take chances. Do whatever is within your capability, and avoid too much travel. Love is highlighted. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): An unexpected change of plans must not disrupt your day. Prepare to go it alone if someone cancels on you. Investments or making changes to some of your assets will lead to greater returns. Home improvements or property transactions should be considered. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Get involved in a self-help group, or take the initiative to stop a bad habit. An emotional reaction will develop with someone if overindulgence, overspending or a bad debt occurs. Community events will lead to favors and new friendships. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put more thought into contracts, negotiations and legal or financial matters. You will come up with a unique way to integrate your skills into a position or deal with an organization, institution or agency trying to expand their current services. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are disciplined, determined and insightful. You have stamina, courage and drive. Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

1				3		5		2
	5		8			3	7	
9	3							
			2		9		6	
2			3	7	1			8
	7		4		5			
							3	5
	4	3			6		8	
6		8		1				4

Difficulty Level ★

2/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

4	9	7	6	1	5	2	8	3
8	3	5	9	7	2	4	1	6
6	1	2	8	4	3	9	5	7
5	4	1	2	8	6	7	3	9
2	7	8	3	9	4	5	6	1
9	6	3	1	5	7	8	2	4
3	5	9	4	6	8	1	7	2
7	2	4	5	3	1	6	9	8
1	8	6	7	2	9	3	4	5

Difficulty Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

JEREMY RENNER

Solution: 8 letters

C	D	A	K	T	S	O	H	G	S	W	A	T	L	M
R	A	R	I	A	R	J	E	S	S	I	E	O	U	O
I	A	P	U	N	A	I	H	A	D	E	C	W	C	N
M	H	L	R	M	R	O	P	V	T	O	N	N	K	K
I	P	A	E	I	M	O	N	I	T	A	O	I	R	E
N	Z	S	W	E	C	E	F	O	C	I	Y	W	O	Y
O	M	T	Y	A	K	O	R	I	T	A	G	L	B	R
L	U	R	E	C	I	P	R	A	L	O	R	R	O	S
O	S	U	I	N	H	I	V	N	D	A	E	D	T	R
G	I	H	G	O	N	O	E	L	N	K	C	R	E	E
Y	C	E	U	T	N	O	L	G	C	A	M	K	T	
M	R	S	E	E	N	U	E	O	N	H	L	A	A	
E	E	N	R	E	B	L	S	G	A	D	C	T	E	
R	S	T	D	N	A	R	B	E	D	Y	T	V	H	
E	F	I	L	S	J	E	F	F	R	E	Y	E	B	T

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2/13

Angel, Beyer, Brandt, Bulldog, California, Capricorn, Chicken, Criminology, Dags, Dahmer, Drummer, Ghost, Goat, Hawaii, Home, House, Hurt, Intense, James, Jeffrey, Jessie, Life, Locker, Love, Luck, Mark, Monkey, Music, Neo Ned, Picard, Protocol, Psychology, Remy, Renovation, Robot, Saul, Senior, Strange, S.W.A.T., Take, Taylor, Theater, Thor, Town, Trip, Wood, Zarn

Last Saturday's Answer: Razzies

To solve the puzzle, find the words listed below in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,
Plaintiff,
-v-
ANGELINA A. MANGLONA,
Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 02-0408

THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 25, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot 345 R 404, situated in Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 09 dated September 21, 1984, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 84-2049.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 16, 2012, at the hour of 11:30 a.m., at the Superior Court, Sinapalo Village, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 7th day of February, 2012:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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WHATZIT Solution: Warmhearted

WANTED: 1 Chief Accountant

Chief Accountant responsible for the oversight of all accounting functions, including inventory, invoicing and accounts receivable, fixed assets, accounts payable, payroll, and cost of production analysis. The successful applicant will also be responsible for the preparation of accurate monthly and annual financial reports. Position calls for extensive knowledge of computerized accounting software and functions. Ability to work as a team player in a fast paced atmosphere is required. Salary commensurate with experience.

Qualifications

- CPA designation with a minimum of 5 years manufacturing accounting experience.
- Familiarity with Peachtree Premium accounting software.
- Demonstrated understanding of cost accounting principles.
- Demonstrated understanding of integrated perpetual inventory accounting concepts.
- Demonstrated understanding of computerized payroll accounting systems.
- Ability to prepare monthly work papers to for the purpose of adjusting general ledger for accurate and timely financial statement preparation
- Demonstrated understanding of MS Excel integrated modeling concepts for the preparation of trend and "what if" analyses.
- Staff management experience.

Deliverables

- Assume responsibility of accounting staff consisting of accounts receivable accountant, cost accountant, accounts payable, and inventory accountant, to ensure that work is performed in an accurate and timely manner.
- Assume responsibility for the biweekly processing of payroll.
- Maintain and amortize prepaid expenses.
- Supervise monthly physical inventory count and pricing, ensuring a proper cutoff.
- Prepare monthly work papers to show the correct month-end balances for assets and liabilities, the appropriate accruals and general journal entries.
- Assemble and organize the work papers for review by the Controller.
- Prepare monthly financial statements along with graphical representation of sales and analytical review commentary of significant changes in sales, cost of operations and expenses.

Please submit your resume and other related documents at the accounting office of:

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Tun Herman Pan Rd., Airport Rd.
Saipan MP 96950

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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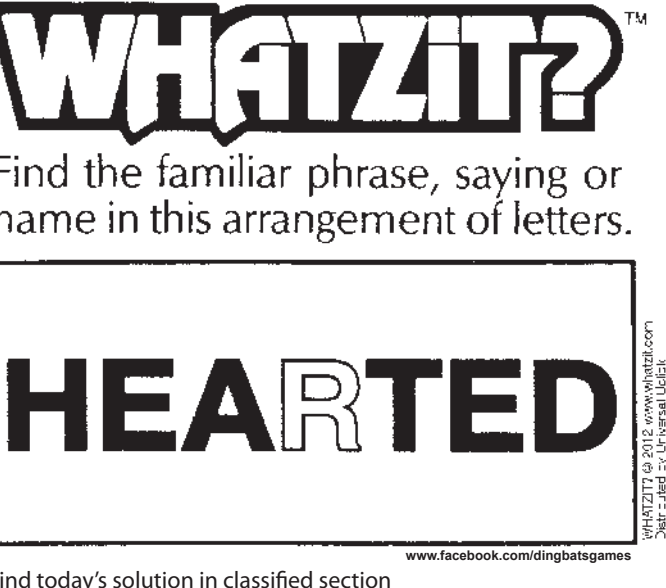
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Knicks notch fifth straight victory



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Jeremy Lin did it again.

Lin hit a free throw with 4.9 seconds left to overcome a dreadful second half and lift the New York Knicks to their fifth straight victory, 100-98, over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Saturday night.

Steve Novak scored 15 points, including the tying 3-pointer with 36 seconds to play and Lin used his quickness to draw a foul and get to the line in the closing seconds. He finished with 20 points, eight assists and six rebounds.

Lin had just five points on 1-for-13 shooting and four turnovers in the second half.

Kevin Love had 32 points and 21 rebounds for the Wolves, who missed two chances to win the game in the final 5 seconds.

The Knicks trailed by seven with 6:41 to play and it looked as if a week of Tebow-like hype was finally catching up to Lin. But the Wolves only scored one field goal the rest of the way, and the Knicks hung in.

Spurs 103, Nets 89

In New Jersey, Gary Neal scored 18 points, and Tim Duncan recorded his ninth double-double of the season with 13 points and 10 rebounds as the San Antonio Spurs won their seventh in the row.

Tony Parker added 12 points, DeJuan Blair finished 11, while Daniel Green and Thiago Splitter each had 10 for the Spurs.

San Antonio was bolstered by the return of sixth man Manu Ginobili. The Argentinean guard had not played in 22 games after suffering a fractured metacarpal in the Spurs' 106-96 loss in Minnesota on Jan. 2. Ginobili, who spelled Green, scored eight points and had four assists in 17 minutes.

Sixers 99, Cavaliers 84

In Cleveland, Jrue Holiday scored 20 points to lead six Philadelphia players in double figures as the 76ers rolled over the short-handed Cleveland Cavaliers.

Philadelphia bounced back from a difficult home loss to the Los Angeles Clippers on Friday night to break a season-high two-game losing streak.

Cleveland, which dropped an overtime decision to Milwaukee at home on Friday, played without two of its three leading scorers. The team announced before the game that center Anderson Varejao will be sidelined indefinitely because of a broken right wrist sustained Friday. Rookie point guard Kyrie Irving missed his third straight game with a concussion.

Clippers 111, Bobcats 86

In North Carolina, Chris Paul, Blake Griffin, and DeAndre Jordan all had double-doubles after three quarters as the Los Angeles Clippers handed the dreadful Charlotte Bobcats yet another lopsided loss.

Paul toyed with the Bobcats, finishing with 18 points and 14 assists in only 28 minutes.

Griffin had 21 points and 10 rebounds and DeAndre Jordan had 11 points with 12 rebounds. Caron Butler added 16 points as the Clip-



New York Knicks' Jeremy Lin, front right, goes up for a shot in the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Minnesota Timberwolves, Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012, in Minneapolis. Timberwolves' Wayne Ellington, left, and J.J. Barea, right, defend. The Knicks won, 100-98.

pers opened an 84-52 lead after three quarters.

Kemba Walker had 19 points for the Bobcats, who've lost a franchise-record 14 straight and are on pace to match a dubious NBA record.

At 3-24, the Bobcats' winning percentage (.125) equals that of the NBA's all-time worst franchise, the 1972-73 Philadelphia 76ers. The 76ers finished 9-72.

Nuggets 113, Pacers 109

In Indianapolis, Ty Lawson scored 27 points to lead the Denver Nuggets over the Indiana Pacers, snapping the Nuggets' five-game losing streak with the win.

Danny Granger scored 26 points for the Pacers, who have lost four of five.

Arron Afflalo had 23 points and five rebounds and Corey Brewer had 19 points and five rebounds in his first game back after missing three straight because of the death of his father.

The Nuggets, who jumped to a 10-point lead in the fourth quarter after never taking more than a six-point

lead in the first three quarters, survived a late run by the Pacers.

Mavericks 97, Trail Blazers 94, 2OT

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 20 points, Jason Terry added 19, and the Mavericks held on for a double-overtime victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Former Dallas-area high school star LaMarcus Aldridge had 33 points, 15 during a fourth-quarter rally, and Jamal Crawford contributed 19 points for the Trail Blazers. Shawn Marion had 14 points and 12 rebounds for Dallas, which won its third in a row.

Brendan Haywood's tip-in with 45 seconds remaining in the second overtime gave Dallas a 95-93 edge. Crawford missed from 15 feet, and Nowitzki swished a 15-foot fade-away with 16.9 seconds left for a 97-93 lead. Wes Matthews made one of two free throws with 11.4 seconds remaining, Portland got the rebound of the second miss, but Crawford's desperation 26-footer failed to hit the rim as final buzzer sounded.

Magic 99, Bucks 94

In Milwaukee, Jason Richardson

scored 28 of his season-high 31 points in the second half and made nine 3-pointers to lead the Orlando Magic past the Bucks.

The Bucks limited Dwight Howard to 11 points and 14 rebounds, but had no defense for Richardson, who unleashed a barrage of 3-pointers in the second half that helped Orlando erase a 10-point fourth quarter deficit and pull ahead. His ninth 3, and eighth out of nine attempts in the second half, gave Orlando a 94-88 lead with 2:07 to go. Richardson finished 9 for 11 from 3-point range.

Kings 98, Suns 84

In Sacramento, Jared Dudley had 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Phoenix Suns, who never trailed in defeating the Kings.

The victory was the fourth in five games for the Suns, who have won their last three on the road. Phoenix took a double-digit lead in the second quarter and maintained a comfortable margin for the remainder of the game.

Markieff Morris came off the bench for 18 points, Channing Frye had 17, and Marcin Gortat had 15 points and seven rebounds for Phoenix.

Linsanity: Knicks benchwarmer becomes a star

NEW YORK (AP) -- Jeremy Lin came with an intriguing story even before he escaped the New York Knicks' bench.

First American-born NBA player of Chinese or Taiwanese descent.

Harvard graduate.

Nomad who crashed on a teammate's couch when his brother's place wasn't available.

In just one week, Lin's proven he's so much more.

Turns out, he's a terrific basketball player.

"The level he is playing at right now, I have never seen it," Knicks forward Jared Jeffries said. "It is weird for a guy to come in and be a team leader who has bounced around like he has. He has inspired us to play harder because he gives it his all every day. There is nothing he doesn't do on a daily basis."

Lin scored a career-high 38 points Friday night to lead the Knicks to a 92-85 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers. After scoring 28 and 23 in his first two NBA starts, he outplayed Kobe Bryant in front of a national TV audience, leaving delirious fans without their voices and his coach without the words to describe it.

"I don't know what to tell you," Mike D'Antoni said. "I have never seen this. It's not often that a guy is going to play four games, the best you are going to see, and nobody knows who he is. That is hard to do."

Lin delivered again Saturday night, scoring 20 points and making a foul shot with 4.9 seconds left in a 100-98 win at Minnesota. He also had eight assists and six rebounds in the Knicks' fifth straight victory.

Lin is drawing comparisons to Denver quarterback Tim Tebow, with the way he impacts his teammates during games and talks about his faith afterward.

Forget Tebowing. Linsanity is the new sports sensation.

"He's been amazing," Minnesota rookie Ricky Rubio, who knows a thing or two about reviving a franchise with dynamic point guard play, said before Saturday night's game. "He's playing well. He's smart and a great kid. We'll try to stop him."

Lin was perhaps on his last chance, and maybe a last resort, when D'Antoni put him in last Saturday against New Jersey. The Knicks had lost on the previous two nights to fall to 8-15, and another defeat that night would have dropped them behind the Nets in the standings and might have made the cries to fire D'Antoni even harder for team management to ignore.

Lin had slept on teammate Landry Fields' couch the night before, still refusing to get his own place as he headed into the week the Knicks would have to decide whether to cut him or guarantee his contract for the rest of the season.

Lin scored 25 points that night, and D'Antoni promoted him to the starting lineup for the next game.

A sensation was born.

The Knicks haven't looked back, even while playing without leading scorers Carmelo Anthony and Amare Stoudemire. They'll be back soon, and if Lin gets them to play at their potential, watch out.

"I think it'll be fun for the city obviously," Bryant said.

There was nothing fun about the Knicks before Lin, as fans blamed D'Antoni, Anthony and team management for the disappointing start. But as they screamed for Lin throughout Friday's game, especially after a clutch 3-pointer in the fourth quarter that was perhaps the biggest shot of the game, Madison Square Garden was again the place to be in the NBA.

Tiger charges as Wi keeps lead at Pebble Beach



PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Charlie Wi

played bogey-free at Spyglass Hill for a 3-under 69 to build a three-shot lead Saturday in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. Now it's time for him to face his demons of self-doubt - along with a familiar force in golf.

Tiger Woods took another step toward showing his game is nearly back. He ran off five birdies in a six-hole stretch early in his round at Pebble Beach and had a 5-under 67 that put him four shots behind going into the final round, the closest he has been to the 54-hole lead in a regular PGA Tour event since the 2010 Masters.

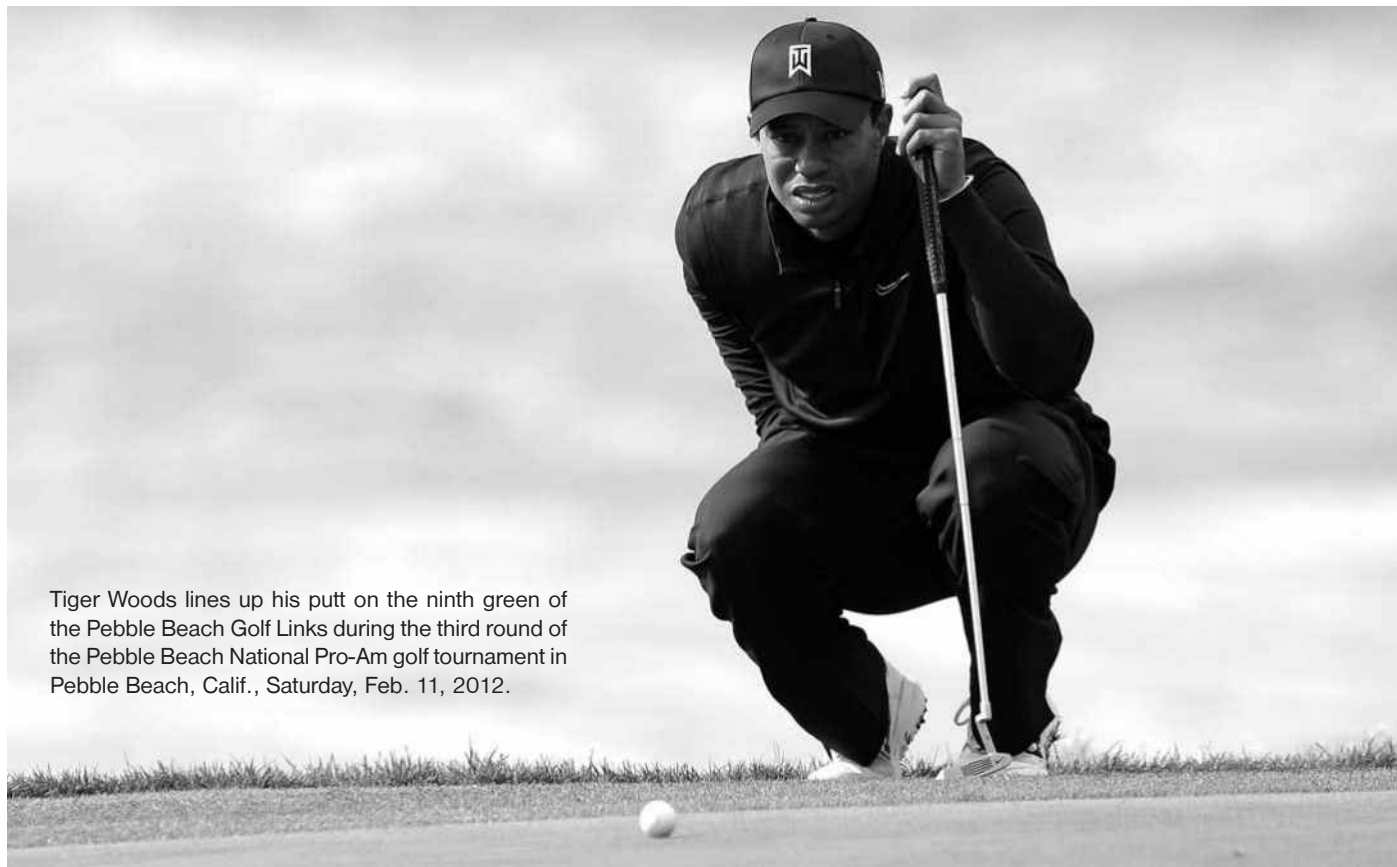
With a new swing, it's starting to look like the old Tiger.

"But the scenario doesn't change," Woods said. "The ultimate goal is to win a golf tournament."

That's something Wi has never done in 162 previous PGA Tour events. Wi, who was at 15-under 199, has a 54-hole lead for only the second time on tour. He had a one-shot lead at Colonial last year and was runner-up to David Toms.

This time, Wi will be in the last group with someone in a familiar spot. Ken Duke, who is winless in 142 starts on the PGA Tour, shot a 65 at Monterey Peninsula.

The last two weeks haven't been too kind to 54-hole leaders. Kyle Stanley lost a five-shot lead at Torrey Pines, and Spencer Levin blew a six-shot lead the following week in the Phoenix Open. Both were going for their first PGA Tour win.



Tiger Woods lines up his putt on the ninth green of the Pebble Beach Golf Links during the third round of the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament in Pebble Beach, Calif., Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012.

Your turn, Charlie.

"I haven't really thought about that," Wi said, when asked if it were a blessing or a burden to be in front. "But I enjoy being in the lead. It's a lot more fun than trying to come from behind. I know that tonight is going to be very exciting, and I'm sure I won't sleep as well as if I'm in 50th place. But that's what we play for, and I'm really excited."

Along with Woods in the hunt, Phil Mickelson managed to stay in contention despite playing the par 5s at Pebble Beach in 1-over par. He saved par on the 18th for a 70. That put him in a tie for fourth, six shots behind, and set up a date with Woods in the second-to-

last pairing.

Padraig Harrington was chasing the lead until a sloppy finish at Spyglass Hill - a bogey on the par-5 seventh, and a double bogey on the eighth. He had to settle for a 72 and dropped seven shots behind in a tie for ninth.

Even so, it served up quite the finale for Sunday.

Wi is No. 175 in the world, while Duke is at No. 258. They have combined for 304 starts without a win. Right behind them are Woods and Mickelson, who have combined for 18 majors and 110 PGA Tour wins.

Also in the group at 9-under 205 are two-time Pebble Beach winner Dustin Johnson, who had a 70 at Monterey Peninsula, and Hunter Mahan, who had a

70 at Spyglass Hill.

"It's really fun, especially when the big guys are up there," Duke said. "That's when everyone is out there watching. If you do perform well and play well, they will be watching you, as well. It's going to be fun."

With a short burst of birdies, it looked as though Woods was having a blast.

Coming off his lone bogey at No. 12, Woods looked as though he were headed for another one. From the left fairway bunker on the 13th, he overcut his 9-iron so much that it was headed for deep rough right of the green. Instead, it bounced off a mound back toward the green, took the grain and settled a foot beneath the

hole for a tap-in birdie.

Woods watched the ball take the hard hop, listened to the gallery around the green cheer wildly, and just smiled.

"Looked like I was having a tough time making par, and I was making birdie, and off we go," Woods said. "Sometimes, we need those type of momentum swings in a round, and from there, I made some putts."

He rolled in a 10-foot birdie putt on the 14th, then had a 25-foot putt up the slope on the 15th. One of the amateurs in his group had a similar putt, so Woods was able to look at the break. He learned well, extending his left arm as he often does before the putt drops. And it did.

Woods made good birdie

putts from 20 feet on the 17th and 8 feet on the 18th, where he also got a small break. Not wanting to hit driver in the first place because he couldn't reach in two, he came out of the shot. It looked like it might go out-of-bounds until it hit a CBS spotter and settled behind the bunkers.

Woods made an easy birdie on the par-5 second, but that was hit. He had to save par on the short par-4 fourth from a bunker, and didn't give himself enough good looks the rest of the way.

No matter. He moved up the leaderboard, higher than he has been in some time on this tour.

Woods played in the final group two weeks ago in Abu Dhabi, tied for the lead with Robert Rock, and he had his poorest day striking the ball and finished in a tie for third. He played in the final group at his Chevron World Challenge at the end of last year and birdied the last two holes to beat Zach Johnson.

Woods doesn't distinguish between tours, or even official events. Winning is winning. Losing is losing. All he sees at the moment is progress, and it's hard to deny it.

Wi is making his own brand of progress, getting more comfortable with his swing and being in contention. He talks often about the demons in his head, which is typical of most any golfer.

"I'm sure I'll be fighting my demons all day tomorrow and it's how I handle myself tomorrow," Wi said. "It's not what other players are doing. How I handle myself tomorrow is going to be the outcome of the tournament."

US sweeps Federer's Swiss team out of Davis Cup



F R I - BOURG, S w i t - z e r l a n d

(AP)—Given a supremely tough draw in the Davis Cup, the United States is off to an exhilarating start.

It swept Roger Federer and Switzerland in the first round, with Mardy Fish and Mike Bryan winning the doubles match on clay, a surface selected by Federer to exploit what was perceived as an American weakness.

But Fish and Bryan, paired for the first time in more than three years, were clearly up for this challenge Saturday before a Swiss crowd that at times turned angry. They defeated Federer and Stanislas Wawrinka, the reigning Olympic champions, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.

"This is probably going down as one of the most memorable (wins)," said Bryan, who played on the 2007 winning team.

The doubles victory gave the Americans a 3-0 lead in the best-of-five, first-round

series. Fish and Bryan built on the momentum from Friday's riveting singles matches when John Isner stunned Federer in four sets and Fish outlasted Wawrinka in five.

"This was a big step forward for our guys to come in here and play against a team of this caliber," U.S. captain Jim Courier said. "Our attitude remained strong all the while and we were ready for whatever. That is what you need for any road tie."

Handling partisan fans is among those demands, and sections of the crowd of some 7,000 were not pleased in the least when Bryan hit Federer and Wawrinka with volleys at close range.

The U.S. will again be on the road for the next round of Davis Cup, an April 6-8 quarterfinal against France or Canada. France leads that match 2-1 in Vancouver British Columbia.

If the favored French advance, they also would likely choose to put the U.S. on clay instead of faster hard courts. The winner would progress to

an away semifinal, probably against defending champion Spain and Rafael Nadal, the greatest player of all on the slow red dust.

"We have the worst draw you could have on paper," Courier said. "But you saw what paper means here, which is absolutely nothing. That's the statement: It's that our guys are committed and played well."

In the six other first-round series in the World Group, three other nations completed 3-0 sweeps Saturday: Czech Republic (vs. Italy), Spain (vs. Kazakhstan) and Argentina (vs. Germany). Ahead 2-1 are Japan (vs. Croatia), Serbia (vs. Sweden) and Austria (vs. Russia).

The U.S. produced the upset of the round despite owning a higher Davis Cup ranking than Switzerland.

"They did really well and got the victory they deserved," Federer said. "We did have our chances but maybe they were just a touch better than us again today."

Later, speaking in French to Swiss media, Federer appeared

less gracious. He claimed not to be too disappointed while pointing a finger at Wawrinka, who slumped back in his chair looking every inch the junior partner in the relationship.

"I played well enough in doubles, but Stanislas not so much," Federer said, adding that Wawrinka "didn't have his best match in singles. It's a shame, because of that defeat we weren't able to put the U.S. under pressure."

Fish and Bryan certainly seized every opportunity to exploit Wawrinka's errors. His serve was broken in the second when he twice double-faulted before Fish hit a rare crosscourt winner from the baseline. In the third, Wawrinka hit back-to-back wayward volleys to drop serve.

"We just had a couple of games where we struggled too much and couldn't convert ourselves," Federer had said in English. He has now lost three straight matches dating to his Australian Open semifinals defeat to Nadal two weeks ago.

Ward willing to restructure deal with Steelers



P I T T S - B U R G H

(AP)—Steelers' wide receiver Hines Ward wants to retire with the Pittsburgh Steelers, offering to restructure his contract to do it.

Ward posted on his Facebook page Saturday that he's already told the Steelers he's willing to work with them on altering his deal so he can remain with the team. Ward's comments came after NFL.com reported the Steelers are planning to cut the franchise's all-time leading receiver.

"I don't normally like to respond to rumors, but as I've said all along, I want to finish my career with the Pittsburgh Steelers," Ward posted.

The 14-year veteran is scheduled to make \$4 million in 2012. He's coming off a season in which he finished with 46 receptions for 381 yards and two touchdowns, the lowest totals in each category since he was a rookie in 1998.

Ward, who turns 36 next month, became the eighth player in league history to reach 1,000 career receptions in the regular-season finale against Cleveland. He and Jerry Rice are the only players in league history to reach 1,000 receptions and win multiple Super Bowls.

Yet Ward's role within the offense diminished as Antonio Brown and Emmanuel Sanders passed him on the depth chart and Mike Wallace became a Pro Bowler. Ward pushed aside speculation he would retire after the Steelers' season ended with a 29-23 overtime loss to Denver in the wild card round.

"No, I'm not even thinking about that," Ward said at the time.

The 2006 Super Bowl MVP did not catch a pass against the Broncos, the first time in Ward's career he was held without a reception in a postseason game. His future is one of several questions that will need to be addressed during what's already been an active offseason for one of the league's most stable franchises.

PLAH Hustlers hungry for Big League title

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Paradise Island Animal Hospital, Inc. Hustlers are coming into opening day of the 2012 Saipan Little League Baseball Incorporated season locked, loaded and dressed for the Big League battle.

“We came up just a little short last year, but I’m proud of what they accomplished and I know they are even hungrier now. I’m confident my guys will be coming out with a vengeance,” said team manager Joe Flores, who hosted a get-together for his squad in his residence in San Antonio last weekend.

Formerly backed by Island Apparel and the Kagman Mobil



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Players of the Saipan Little League Baseball Incorporated's Paradise Island Animal Hospital, Inc. Hustlers pose for a photo with their new uniforms at a team gathering held in San Antonio last Saturday.

Gas Station, the Hustlers had an impressive run spoiled after losing to the championship match against the Docomo Pa-

cific Ol'Aces, 3-4. The title loss came after the Hustlers grinded out an upset over southpaw phenom Joshua Jones and the Nati-

bu Sports Association Northern Stars, 7-6, in a 15-inning marathon semifinal.

This year, the Hustlers will

THREE-PEAT

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58:57 to round out the Top 3 in the men's division.

Sublemente, Morris, and Tenorio were in the lead group that left the start/finish line in front of Mariana Resort and pedaled up to the Marianas Country Club. Then Morris and Sublemente were neck and neck up to the FEBC road before the latter managed to create some distance heading to Kimikaze trail.

"I kept pace with him past the halfway mark of the race, but when it was time to enter Kimikaze trail, I was alone. That was my plan, I had to be on the trail first and alone, as it is hard to ma-

neuver the course if there are a lot of bikers," Sublemente said.

"It was a tough race, as a lot of bikers are getting better after each event," the three-time champion added.

Besides the FEBC road and Kimikaze trail, Sublemente and the rest of the MTB championship course riders also went through the Autobahn trail, paved road toward Grotto, Santati trail, coral road towards Cowtown, Banzai trail, Banzai Cliff, and then back to trail that led to the Marianas Country Club.

In the women's division, Mieko Carey debuted in the Northern Passage with her field's best time of 1:02:31.

"It was a good ride. The course was not slippery. It's a good warm-

up for XTERRA," said Carey during a post race interview with event organizer Brad Ruzsala.

Susan Marchitti joined Carey in the winners' podium with the women's division's second best time of 1:27:58.

In the men's rookie course division, Dencio Bautista (25:35), Michael Calibo (25:59) and Rommel Isidro (26:30) completed the Top 3, while Arnel Cruz (48:51), Erico Castro (48:53), and Rick Melchor (50:38) led winners in the sports course.

Other top winners were Kathy Ruzsala (46:37) and Robyn Wondraseil (1:04:10) in the women's rookie and sports courses, respectively.

In the new road race division, long course category, Nap Di-

zon cut the tape first at the 49:44 mark, less than a minute ahead of runner-up Antonee Aguilar (50:04). Ariel Garcia joined them in the Top 3 with his time of 52:36. The championship road course had riders heading out to the four corners—Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, and Banzai Cliff—before returning to Mariana Resort for the finish.

In the rookie course (two corners), Ariel Lansangan won with a time of 38:19, while Bernard Laborce topped the sports course (three corners) after submitting 41:08.

In the women's rookie division, Regina Sebial timed in at 57:30 to prevail against Esther Ada (59:10) and Juanita Fajardo (1:02:28).

LIZAMA

From Page 28

event. They started their run strong with a pair of wins and then knocked JR Gechig and John Nekaifes down in the quarterfinals, 21-12. Incidentally, Gechig and Nekaifes bumped off eventual runners-up, A.J. Aguilar and Wilton Laniyo, in their second preliminary pairing.

Down but not out, Aguilar and Laniyo survived a pair of lower bracket matches before avenging their early loss to Gechig and Nekaifes, 15-6, for

a spot to the finals.

Notably, players in Saturday's men's finals were very familiar with each another's game. Gross and Mister are both teachers at Marianas High School, the same school that Aguilar and Laniyo attend. The four finalists also duelled in the finals of a Rocball league with Aguilar and Laniyo's team (Aim Low) prevailing over Gross and Mister's the Teachers.

However, this time around, Mister and Gross schooled the

students in the finals, 21-14.

The teachers managed an early lead, 11-3, until Aguilar and Laniyo rallied back to within three, 8-11.

In the end, Gross and Mister more than kept pace with the young up and comers to savor a little pay back from their recent Rocball defeat. Despite the loss, Aguilar and Laniyo were quite pleased and very surprised with their second place result.

"We weren't expecting any-

thing coming into this except to just have fun. We tried to come back, but they did a really good job holding us off," Aguilar said.

The first place winners of each division were each awarded a gift certificate for a free lunch buffet at Kili Café & Terrace. Runners-up each received a day pass for one at Hyatt's Club Elan and third finishers were presented with a fitness class session for two, also at Club Elan.

LADY

From Page 28

with a 2-2-1 slate.

Meanwhile, the MISO boys basketball league will resume today with Kagman High School (1-2) and Saipan International School (0-3) colliding in the junior varsity game in the first match at 4pm. Then, in the second game, Grace Christian Academy's varsity squad will take on the Mount Carmel School Knights, who are hoping to break into the win column after dropping their first five assignments.

CHAMBERS

From Page 28

of the 11-player draw. Schorr advanced to the Round of 8 after a 6-1 victory over Kevin Kim last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club court, while Taniguchi had a bye in the first round.

In the lower half of the draw, Adirya Rai was paired against A.J. Hudkins in the quarterfinals yesterday, while Tony Atalig was pitted against Eugene Park. Result of neither match was unavailable at press time.

In the boys U12 singles, three players had already secured semis tickets. Clayton Izuka notched one after thwarting Vincent Tudela last Saturday, 8-3, while Michael Jones and Alex Park also marched into the next round after

prevailing over Haruya Eda, 8-4, and Satoshi Ohtsu (walkover), respectively.

In the boys U15, the quarterfinal cast were completed over the weekend with Chris Cajigan, Tommy Choi, Carl Dela Cruz, Dylan Ackerman, Aaron Lee, Seiya Eda, Colin Ramsey, and Moris Villanueva on the list. Choi won over Michael Ren, 8-1, to advance against Cajigan, who had a bye in the first round. Dela Cruz and Ackerman also had byes and were scheduled to meet in the quarterfinals. Ramsey topped Daniel Lim, to arrange a quarterfinals tiff against Villanueva, who along with Lee and Eda earned byes in the opening round.

In the boys U18 division, Rafael Jones had a free pass to the semifinals after a walkover victo-

ry over Lucas Nutting yesterday. Nutting won his opening match against R.J. Aquino last Saturday, 8-3. Joining Jones in the semis was Amami Sakano, who had a bye in the first round and was also awarded a win via walkover over Nathan Nutting. Christian Miller, Jake Lee, Angelo Jones, and Daniel Park were set to square off for the last two semis seats.

Rafael Jones is also entered in the men's singles and made it to the semifinals after an 8-4 triumph over Raj Rai. Completing the Final Four were Jeff Race, Miller, and Cruz. Race crushed Lee in his first match, 8-1; Miller edged Daniel Park, 9-8 (7-5); and Cruz downed Sakano, 8-1.

The complete results in Week 1 of the Coconut Classic will be published in *Saipan Tribune's* Tuesday edition.

have both a brand new sponsor and a new look, although their roster boasts a number of familiar faces.

The Hustlers have nine returning players including all stars MacGarett Duenas, Manny Flores and Jeremy Lizama. Completing the team are veteran players Tim Rabago, Irvin Saralu, Johnaquin DeLeon Guerrero, McJarrel Espine, Dave Demapan and MacGary Scaliem, and newcomers Brian Camacho, KJ Villagomez and Kenta Castro.

The team is mostly made up of players from San Antonio, Koblerville, and Dandan and will be coached by Audi Maratita and Franky Hocog.

"We gathered today [Saturday] basically to bring the team together and prepare for another successful season. We also want to show our appreciation to our new sponsor Edgar Tudor DVM and the Paradise Island Animal Hospital, Inc. Thank you very much for your support," Flores said.

The team has been practicing since October at Koblerville El-

ementary School and according to the coaches, the squad has already shown significant improvement from last season.

"We had a great run last year, and I can tell we are even better right now from what I observed in practice. It seems like they can only beat themselves this year," said Hocog.

Notably Maratita and Hocog played on the very first Hustlers team back in 1994. Hocog was a former pitcher and Maratita used to be his catcher back in the day.

Hocog is entering his second year coaching the group, while this season marks Maratita's first little league coaching experience. Hocog has a season of majors division coaching under his belt as well.

Little league season is set to start at 9am this Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Following the traditional opening ceremony, rematches of last year's championship duels are set to take place throughout the day with the Big League game being saved for last at 3pm.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	19	9	.679	—
Boston	14	12	.538	4
New York	13	15	.464	6
Toronto	9	19	.321	10
New Jersey	8	21	.276	11 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	20	7	.741	—
Atlanta	18	9	.667	2
Orlando	17	11	.607	3 1/2
Washington	5	22	.185	15
Charlotte	3	24	.111	17

Central Division

Chicago	23	6	.793	—
Indiana	17	10	.630	5
Milwaukee	12	15	.444	10
Cleveland	10	16	.385	11 1/2
Detroit	8	20	.286	14 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

San Antonio	19	9	.679	—
Dallas	17	11	.607	2
Houston	16	11	.593	2 1/2
Memphis	14	13	.519	4 1/2
New Orleans	4	23	.148	14 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	21	6	.778	—
Denver	16	12	.571	5 1/2
Portland	15	13	.536	6 1/2
Utah	13	12	.520	7
Minnesota	13	15	.464	8 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	17	8	.680	—
L.A. Lakers	15	12	.556	3
Phoenix	12	15	.444	6
Golden State	9	14	.391	7
Sacramento	10	17	.370	8

Yesterday's Games

L.A. Clippers 111, Charlotte 86

Denver 113, Indiana 109

Philadelphia 99, Cleveland 84

New York 100, Minnesota 98

San Antonio 103, New Jersey 89

Dallas 97, Portland 94, 2OT

Orlando 99, Milwaukee 94

Phoenix 98, Sacramento 84

PEBBLE BEACH SCORES

PEBBLE BEACH, California (AP) — Scores

Saturday from the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, played at the 6,816-yard, par-72 Pebble Beach Golf Links (p), the 6,838-yard, par-70 Monterey Peninsula Country Club Shore Course (m) and the 6,953-yard, par-72 Spyglass Hill Golf Club (s).

Third Round

Charlie Wi	61m-69p-69s-199
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Ken Duke

64p-73s-65m-202

Tiger Woods

68s-68m-67p-203

Phil Mickelson

70s-65m-70p-205

Kevin Na

66s-69m-70p-205

Dustin Johnson

63p-72s-70m-205

Brendon Todd

67p-69s-69m-205

Hunter Mahan

65m-70p-70s-205

Bob Estes

67s-70m-69p-206

Ricky Barnes

70s-66m-70p-206

Padraig Harrington

68m-66p-72s-206

Aaron Baddeley

66m-72p-69s-207

Kevin Strelman

70m-69p-68s-207

Ryan Palmer

72p-71s-64m-207

Ryan Moore

72s-64m-71p-207

Geoff Ogilvy

70m-69p-68s-207

Greg Owen

68s-67m-72p-207

Vijay Singh

68p-68s-71m-207

Jason Kokrak

68m-67p-72s-207

Jimmy Walker

69s-68m-71p-208

Nick Watney

66s-73m-69p-208

Joseph Bramlett

66m-69p-73s-208

Shane Bertsch

68p-75s-65m-208

Brian Gay

69s-65m-74p-208

Brian Harman

64p-73s-71m-208

Robert Garrigus

68m-69p-71s-208

Jonas Blixt

70p-69s-69m-208

Roland Thatcher

71p-68s-70m-209

Mathew Goggin

69m-71p-69s-209

Spencer Levin

69m-69p-71s-209

Richard H. Lee

65m-71p-73s-209

Miguel Angel Carballo

69m-71p-69s-209

Davis Love III

70s-70m-70p-210

D.J. Trahan

70s-69m-71p-210

Steven Bowditch

71s-67m-72p-210

Danny Lee

63p-73s-74m-210

Sean O'Hair

68p-74s-69m-211

Daniel Summerhays

65m-73p-73s-211

Zach Johnson

67m-72p-72s-211

Joe Ogilvie

68p-73s-70m-211

Mark D. Anderson

69p-71s-71m-211

D.A. Points

72s-65m-74p-211

Roberto Castro

70m-68p-73s-211

Bobby Gates

72p-70s-69m-211

Tim Petrovic

70m-70p-72s-212

Jim Furyk

69s-69m-74p-212

Tom Pernice Jr.

72s-70m-70p-212

Josh Teater

64m-71p-77s-212

Matt Bettencourt

73s-69m-70p-212

Cameron Tringale

71s-71m-70p-212

Tom Gillis

74p-72s-66m-212

Gary Christian

72s-70m-70p-212

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Kevin Stadler

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72s-69m-72p-213

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Ian Poulter

69m-72p-72s-213

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Kyle Reifers

69m-72p-72s-213

Stuart Appleby

72p-71s-70m-213

Charley Hoffman

67m-73p-73s-213

John Huh

71s-71m-71p-213

Sang-Moon Bae

68s-73m-72p-213

Pat Perez

67m-72p-74s-213

Heath Slocum

74p-71s-68m-213

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Week in Sports

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Local teams San Antonio/Gene's Barber and Aim Low joined the New York Giants in last week's champions' list.

San Antonio claimed the championship in the 2011 MDX Amateur Radio Club Inter-Village Friendship League, while Aim Low notched the crown in the 2011 Rocball Fall League. San Antonio's title win came a day after the Giants defeated the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XLVI, 21-17, while Aim Low reached the Promised Land before the week ended.

The inter-village champion defeated As Lito/Chow Queen in the winner-take-all finals, 87-72, while Aim Low prevailed over the Teachers in a best-of-five title showdown, 3-1, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The MHS gym was also the venue for the MISO boys basketball and girls volleyball games last week. In volleyball, Grace Christian Academy posted the biggest win of the week, topping the then undefeated Saipan International School to improve to a 9-1 record and force a tie for the lead with the latter. In basketball, Saipan Southern High School clobbered GCA, 77-49, to move up to a 5-1 record and stay on top of the field.

Still in MISO competition, Kagman High School notched its second win in the girls soccer after tripping the MHS Dolphins 2, 1-0.

In another soccer news last week, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association tapped former Major League Soccer player Johann Noetzel as its goalkeeper development training director.

Still in soccer, MP United Football

Champions crowned



From left, San Antonio's Nevin Salem, As Lito's Sheen Metran, and San Antonio's Adrian Palacios get ready for the rebound play during their title game in the MDX caging last week at the Civic Center Basketball Court.

Club managed to make it to a series of friendly games in Guam despite having delays in its flight schedule. MP United's boys U12, U15, and U18 teams competed against various Guam Football Association-member clubs and the host's national U14 and U15 teams.

In triathlon, Enticer 2 produced a new winner in Brian Morris, who stunned Enticer 1 top finisher Butch Sublemente in the XTERRA long course division. Mieko Carey opted for the short course and completed the race in less than 50 minutes.



MP United FC's Sean Hong (27) slides to kick the ball in front of the Wings' Taira Kobori during their friendly game at the Guam Football Association artificial turf last week.



MP United FC's Dakota Hall, right, defends Guam's Thomas Park during their friendly game at the Guam Football Association artificial turf last week.



Saipan Southern High School's Paul Mariano pulls up for a jumper against Grace Christian Academy during their game in the MISO caging last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



Former Major League Soccer player Johann Noetzel, left, shakes hands with Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan after agreeing to take the goalkeeper development training director post for NMIFA last week.



A Grace Christian Academy player returns the ball to Saipan International School during their game in the MISO volleyball last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



Jay Diyco, left, runs along the shore, while Jun Lee moves out of the water during last week's Enticer 2 at PauPau Beach.



Students watch an Aim Low player's service against the Teachers during Game 1 of the Rocball league title series last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Activity Schedule for February 13, 2012

<p>NMBA Gym will be temporarily closed due to the installation of taraflex flooring. The renovation of the badminton courts will be completed by February 12, 2012. For the meantime, members and players will be using the Gillette Multipurpose Gym for badminton practices starting February 1, 2012.</p>	<p>Northern Marianas Badminton Association 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Morning practices) 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM (Evening practices)</p>	<p>2012 Men's B Futsal League 6:00 PM News Makers vs. Shirley's 7:00 PM Docomo vs. CTSI Puzakals</p>
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Knicks notch fifth straight victory

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Tiger charges as Wi keeps lead at Pebble Beach

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Three-peat for Sublemente



ROSELYN B. MONROTO

Participants in the MTB race of yesterday's 2012 Northern Passage pedal up to the Marianas Country Club.

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Butch Sublemente extended his reign in the Northern Passage after ruling yesterday's MTB championship course against rivals Brian Morris and Lewie Tenorio.

Lizama, Yamada win beach v'ball tourney



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

From left, Nick Gross, Charnessa Lizama, Toni Yamada, and Tyce Mister show their prize packages after topping NMIVA's 4th Annual For the Love of Volleyball beach doubles tournament last Saturday at Hyatt Regency Saipan's sand courts.

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

After colliding in a competition last month, Charnessa

Lizama and Toni Yamada this time teamed up in winning the women's division crown in the 4th Annual For the Love of Volleyball beach doubles tourna-

ment held last Saturday at Hyatt Regency Saipan's sand courts.

Lizama and Yamada, who suited up for different teams in the finals of NMIVA's grasscourt volleyball tournament three weeks ago, beat seven other female duos to rule this year's For the Love, joining fellow champions Tyce Mister and Nick Gross of the men's division.

After winning the opening round, Lizama and Yamada sliced through eventual runners-up Linda Anastacio and Amber Roberts in the semifinals, 21-7. Anastacio and Roberts later battled their way back through the lower bracket, advancing to the finals after a 15-6 win over eventual third placers Laurie Peterka and Kim Peterson.

Lizama and Yamada held a twice-to-beat advantage coming into the championship and needed less than a half hour to have their hands raised in victory, 21-10.

In the men's division, Mister and Gross topped the 10-team field of the double-elimination
See LIZAMA on Page 26

The Pacific Islands Club employee completed the longest trail race of the day in 57 minutes to top the annual competition for the third straight time since the inaugural event in 2010 and foil another



upset bid from Morris. Morris, who defeated Sublemente in Enticer 2 early this month, settled for a runner-up finish this time after clocking in at 58:41. Tenorio submitted
See THREE-PEAT on Page 26

Chambers clinches semis berth in Coconut Classic

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Cole Chambers boosted his chances for a second straight U10 singles crown after making it to the semifinals of the 2012 White Coconut Tennis Classic.

Chambers, which pulled off an upset in the Tan Holdings Classic two months ago, started his bid for back-to-back sin-

gles crown after downing Ken Song in yesterday's game at the American Memorial Park tennis courts, 6-3. Song challenged the top-seeded Chambers in the quarterfinals after whipping Logan Mister in the first round last Saturday, 6-1.

The first win in Week 1 of the annual competition moved Chambers to the Final Four round against the winner of the Mondo Taniguchi-Robert Schorr quarterfinals tiff in the upper half
See CHAMBERS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Cole Chambers rushes to the right sideline for a return against Ken Song during their boys U10 singles game in the 2012 White Coconut Tennis Classic yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Lady Dolphins, Lady Rays in stalemate

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



The regular season of the 2011-

2011 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Soccer League continued last Thursday with Marianas High School 1 settling for a scoreless draw against Saipan Southern High School.

It was the first time in five games at the Oleai Sports Complex Field that MHS 1 was held scoreless. The draw stalled the Lady Dolphin's record to 4-0-1 (win-loss-draw), while Southern fell to a 2-1-2 card.

The league-leading MHS 1 controlled the pace for the majority of the match, but the Lady Rays held strong on defense to foil the Dolphins' bid for their fifth straight victory.

The season will continue tomorrow with Southern aiming for its third win as it faces MHS 2 at 4:30pm. MHS 2, which is composed of its junior varsity players, has yet to break into the win column after five matches.

Kagman High School is also playing in the league and is ranked third in the field

See LADY on Page 26